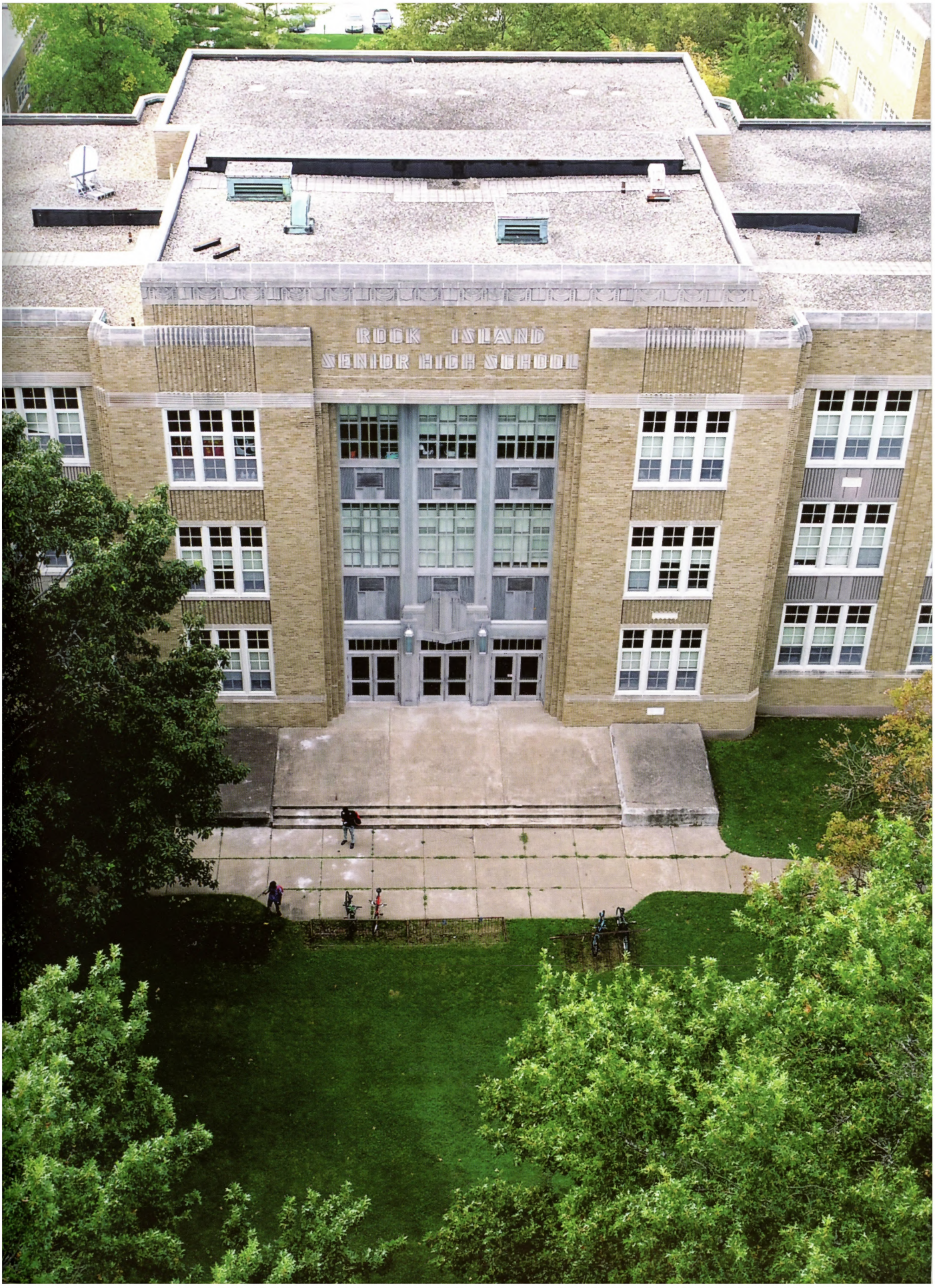
WATCHTOWER 2020

HOME IS HERE


ROCK ISLAND
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HERE

Watchtower
2019-2020

Here, at Rock Island High School, we spend a lot of time together. We follow traditions and show our Rock Island pride. We are well-rounded and represent a diverse community. No matter who you are or where you come from, we all bond together. We are Rock Island.

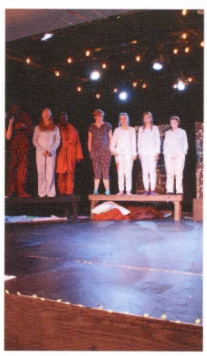
Here, every sports team and club has at least one tradition that they follow. Whether it's the soccer team standing around the RI before every home game, the cast of the musical standing in The Circle before every performance, the marching band singing the Alma Mater after every home performance, or the football team touching The Rock before every home game, traditions matter. They hold us together and help us form friendships that last a lifetime.

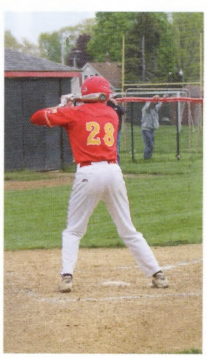
Here, we show our Rock Island pride. We wear red and gold Rocky gear everywhere we go. We cheer at sports games. We paint up for Friday Night Lights. We support our choir, band, and orchestra members by watching their concerts. We represent Rock Island High School in a positive way in our community.

Here, we are well-rounded. Students and staff alike are often involved in multiple different activities. Student athletes find time to enjoy music and the arts. Some members of the Rocky staff are coaches or help advise clubs, in addition to teaching in the classroom. The education given and received at Rocky is good preparation for the real world. Students learn to balance school work with extracurriculars.

Here, we are diverse. We have students from all over the world. There are 31 different languages spoken in our building. We learn about culture and language in Spanish, German, and French classes. We love one another, and never judge anyone because of their differences.

We look forward towards the future, knowing that once we are a Rock, we will always be a Rock. We always have a place to come back to, because **here**, Rock Island is our home.





HERE

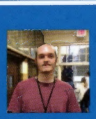
you are. This is your final year at Rock Island High School. You might have spent all four years here, or maybe you transferred from another school. You are trying to get the most out of this year, involving yourself in different sports and clubs. Perhaps you are thinking about college, or trade school, or a gap year after graduation. You are making the most of your time while you are here, creating memories with your closest friends.

As you take a final bow on stage, compete in your last athletic competition, dance at your senior Homecoming and Prom, and finally, walk across the stage to receive your diploma, smile, because you made it. No matter where you go after high school, you will always be a Rock. Here, at RIHS, you will always have a home.

ATOMIC

What are your future plans after you leave **HERE?**

"I want to be a surgical tech. First, I will attend Iowa Western Community College for 2 years, then transfer to Nebraska of Omaha to finish out my schooling."
Johnae Angel



"My future plan is to go into computer science at Black Hawk College."
Benjamin Smith

"I want to go to college to become a graphic designer. If that falls through, I will become an EMT, and travel the world."
Tez Allen

"I just want to be rich and successful."
JJ Whillhite

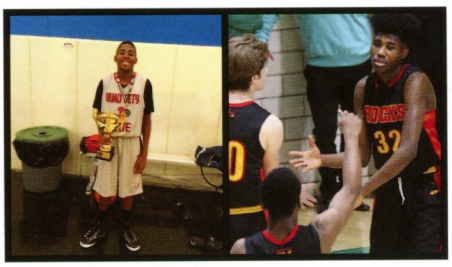
Zawadi Adolphine
Aaron Aitken
Maria Alba
Sevilya Alieva
Isaac Almanza
Aden Alvarez

Makai Ambrose
Easton Anderson
Johnae Angel
Jonathan Anglese
Ximena Avalos
Angelina Balandran

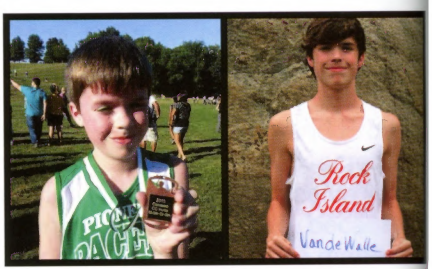
Miranda Banks
Telena Barnes
Emma Beierlein
Jessica Bell
Colin Benisch
Sydney Boyle

McKenzie Brandt
Bianca Brown
Madalynn Brummit
Haley Burroughs
Emma Caraveo
Alexa Carpenter

Madelynn DePover
Swimming

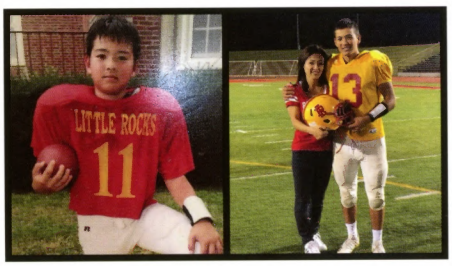


Malachi Key
Basketball



Tony VandeDeWalle
Cross Country

Logan Conner
Baseball



Mj Stern
Football

Ashley Johnson
Cheerleading

"It is more important to be yourself than to impress others."
Easton Anderson

"When you feel like giving up, go harder because it will pay off in the end!"
Allanah Berry

"Finding out who I can trust."
Jalen Miller

"How much common sense means in the real world."
Shannon Elliot

What has being **HERE** @ Rocky taught you?

Jazel Carr
Caleb Carroll
Kayleigh Cassatt
Deago Chapman Perez
Shaila Christopher
Anthony Cimarrusti

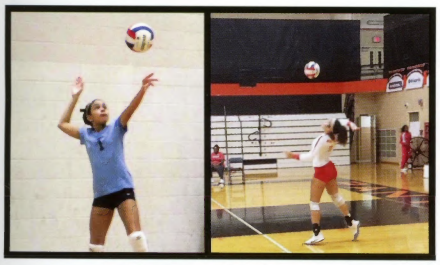
Danielle Clark
Dante Clark
Anntonia Clay
Amirre Coleman
Logan Conner
Veronica Contreras Villagomez

Madison Coopman
Angelina Cortez
Christopher Crane
Matthew Crone
Carter Cumberworth
Tristinn Davis

Savannah Debus
Lauryn Dempsey
Amy Dennhardt
Madelynn DePover
Vincent DeVore
Joseph Dilulio

Osvaldo Perez
Soccer

Adria Scott
Cheerleading



Raghen Walker
Volleyball

Morgan Freeman
Basketball

BABY BALLERS

These baby ballers take on the future with the same childlike enthusiasm for their sports as they did when they were in diapers. Their passion only grew as they graduated from kids to young adults. Some things never change!

HERE at Rocky, what was your favorite class that you've participated in?

"Anatomy and physiology because Mr. Campbell really made learning fun and interesting. He made sure everyone had a good understanding of what was going on."
Karla Marquez

"Accounting is my favorite because I've learned so many things that have helped me manage money and knowledge on other things, as well."
Jackie Ndayikengurukiye

"My On the Job Training class because I get to work and get a school credit at the same time."
Sven Findlay

"My favorite class is art because we have a lot of freedom and flexibility with our work and my homies are in there!"
Annaca Gates

Aysia Dixon
Trevor Dorsam
Kiowa Dove
Sja'Lell Downing-Mims
Hannah Drish
Siobhan Dunn

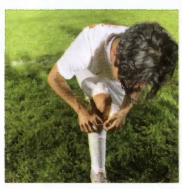
Alayah Edgerson
Shannon Elliott
Nils Empen
Ella Engholm
Anthony England
Vincent Esposito

Aden Euring
Sven Findlay
Madolynn Finley
Kelsey Freeman
Morgan Freeman
Payton Fuller

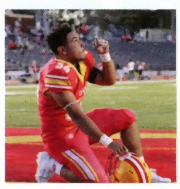
Angel Garcia
Carl Garner
Tyler Garrison
Xavier Gasper
Annaca Gates
Jada Gay

SENIOR SUPERSTITIONS

"When I sit on the bench, it has to be the second to last seat."
- **Breona Williams**



"I listen to the same music and do the same stretches, the same way, every time."
- **Raghen Walker**



"I do the same routine each time I step into the box."
- **Heather Motley**

"I have to roll my socks down."
- **Taurean Holtam**

"Before every game, I have to put my socks on in a certain way."
- **Isaac Almanza**

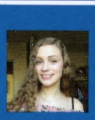
"I tape both my wrists and say a prayer."
- **Donovan Rogers**

"I never step on the chalk line. It is bad luck."
- **Vincent Esposito**

"Marching Band is my favorite high school memory."
Sergio Zepeda

"My favorite memories were my times in Spanish Club and LASO (Latin American Student Organization)."
Rafael Ramirez

"Seeing Mr. Campbell smiling and welcoming us every morning."
Amber Worthman



"My favorite high school memory is the 2017 Homecoming Assembly."
Johnae Angel

What is your favorite memory **HERE?**

Shawn Gingry
Magdalene Granja
Hayley Grunewald
Arrian Gunter
Solomon Gustafson
Victor Guzman

Darian Harding
Kylie Harrington
Kaleb Harrison
Liam Haskill
Jayla Hathorn
Ashlynn Hensley-Gay

Flavio Hernandez-Rodriguez
Ja'Kye Hill
My'Lea Hill
Jordyn Hinton
Kelcie Hodge
Montana Hogan

Taurean Holtam
Ryan Holtan
Margaret Honeycutt
Izaya Hooks
Nadia Horice
Spencer House

Senior Standouts

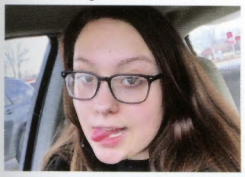
"Well, my name is Morgan Freeman. That's pretty unique."
- Morgan Freeman

"My attitude makes me stand out the most."
- Kelcie Hodge

"I was birthed in Japan."
- Mj Stern

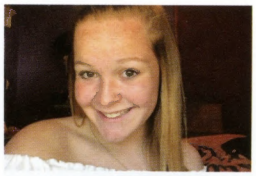
"I wear hearing aids."
- Logan Conner

"I have been a football manager for three years, and that's how most people know me."
- Marice Dodd



"I have a boy name."
- Tristan Lambert

"I have this mural in my room and it makes me unique. It has a lot of pictures on it, and it says, "You're not a label, you're someone, be that someone."
- Vincent DeVore



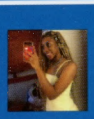
"I have crazy good time management skills."
- Morgan Nesbitt

"My martial arts students. They practically define my life and how I sculpt myself toward how they see me."
- Shannon Elliot

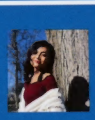
"I don't like chocolate."
- Isabel Mizlo

What advice do you have for underclassmen **HERE?**

"Stay in school, stay out of trouble, but most importantly GRADUATE."
Brenden Mildren



"To stay focused, dedicated and don't give up."
Jyasmeen Jones



"Always be on top of your work. Whether it's school or work related, don't procrastinate and leave everything for last minute."
Victoria Thaw

"Have fun. Don't stress over your work too much. Just get it done so you can chill later."
Aamiyah Mitchell

Aaliyah Houston-Lyle
Ywa Hay Htoo
Ndayikengurukiye Jacquiline
Jayvionna Jalloh
Tyler Jennings
Airana Johnson

Ashley Johnson
Tavia Johnson
Peyton Jones
Marlon Kelley
Alex Kern
Malachi Key

Nu Nu Khin
Evan Kidwell
Collin Killian
Elale (Peter) Kimba
Nicole King
Jacob Kirby

Jeremiah Kirby
Ethan Kirkpatrick
Kevin Kolls
Ethan Kopplin
Tristan Lambert
Brandon Lawver

Collection Addiction

[Students open up about their collections]

Pressed Pennies
"I started collecting them when I would travel to different places with my family."
- Josie Pennington

Sweatshirts
"I just love sweatshirts, and I usually get one every time I travel somewhere, or whenever I'm involved in something."
- Emily LeVan

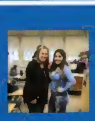
Pura Vida Bracelets
"I liked the bracelets, so I ended up joining the monthly club, and just started collecting them."
- Emma Beierlein

Trophies
"I started collecting trophies when I was younger and I played travel baseball."
- Lucas Thieme

Vans Shoes
"I liked the style and the way they looked on my feet, so I just found myself collecting more and more."
- Bailey Tripilas

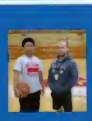
"Señora is my favorite teacher because I can talk to her as a friend, and her classroom is always a safe zone for me."
Angela Camargo

"Mrs. Greenwood is my favorite teacher because she not only tries to help us in school, but in our life situations, as well."
Ximena Avalos



"Mrs. Dieudonne is my favorite teacher because she has opened many doors for me, and is always there to listen. She is not just a teacher, but she has also become a friend."
Veronica Contreras-Villagomez

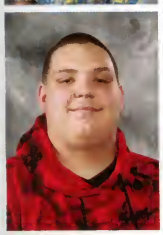
"Mr. Bolleert is my favorite teacher because he is laid back and has a good sense of humor."
Jalen Miller



Who has been your favorite teacher **HERE?**

Emily LeVan
Jayliyah Lewis
Ceu Bik Lian
Anthony Lioen
Kaleb Littlejohn
Clarissa Lopez

Fatuma Louise
Darquez Lovelady
Zachary Ludwig
Michael Machuca
Kaitlyn Mandel
Tristan Mandel



Michael Manthe
Spencer Mar
Ellie Maranda
Briseidy Marin-Lopez
Karla Marquez Gutierrez
Dominic Martin

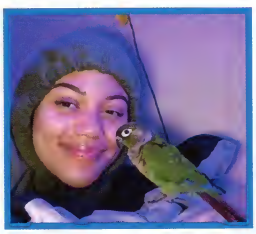
Zachary Martin
Daniela Martinez Hernandez
Aminia Mashimango
Mantral McClary
Abigail McDonald
Andrew McDuffy

THE PETS WE HAVE HERE

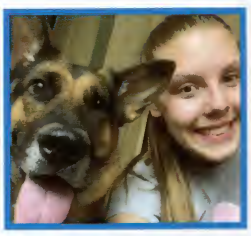
Savannah Debus' mice, Chevelle and Luna

Waldo Perez and his cat, Bella

Caresse Murphy and her bearded dragon, Spike



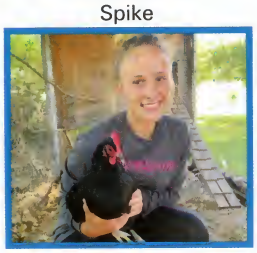
Annaca Gates and her bird, Gemini



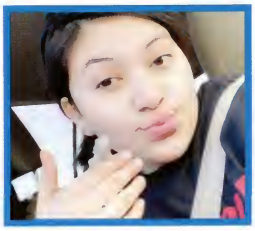
Kailyn Sanders and her dog, Sam

Hannah Drish and her cat, Fred

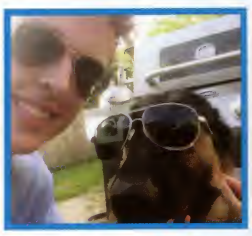
Katherine Shewell and her horse, Billy



Emma Beierlein and her chickens



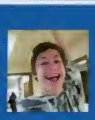
Briseidy Lopez and her bearded dragon, Limon



Matt Crone and his dog, Blue

What are you going to miss the most **HERE** after you graduate?

"I loved being a part of the arts in Rocky! Our Fine Arts Department, in my opinion, is one of the best in the district!"
Vincent DeVore



"The new opportunities the classes let me explore."
Shannon Elliott

"Friends and teachers."
Xavier Gasper

"I'm going to miss my teachers, mostly Mrs. Young and Mrs. Greenwood. Also, some of the people I've met throughout the time I've been here."
Zachary Martin

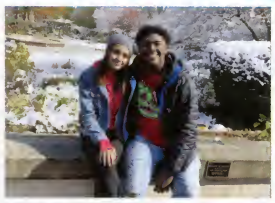
Ashley McGinnis
Isaiah McGowan
Jesse McVey
Gustavo Medrano
Austin Meirhaeghe
Tristan Metzger

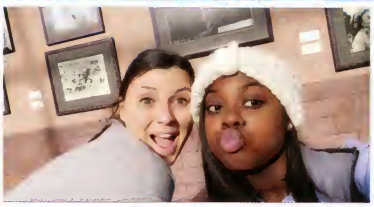
Kibriyaa Millbrook
Jalen Miller
Nicole Mital
Aamiyah Mitchell
Isabel Mizlo
Vanessa Mojica

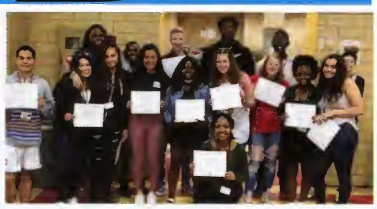
Hsar Moo
Kejuan Moore
Isaiah Morrow
Lily Mosher
Heather Motley
Eh Mu Mu

Paw Mu
Messiah Muhammad-Ali
Austin Muller
Caresse Murphy
Leah Murphy
Raniese Muskeyvalley

SENIOR AVID ★★★







"I really enjoyed doing the musical."
Abigale Lindquist

"Being able to take more special needs kids to dances."
Amy Dennhardt

"Donating blood. I loved knowing that I would be helping people with my simple act. I'll most likely do it again when I'm not in high school."
Hannah Dale

"Being part of Spanish/ Latin American Student Organization (LASO) Club."
Maria Perez

What did you enjoy so much **HERE** that you would do it again?

Julia Nash
Morgan Nesbitt
Ryan Nickel
Salvator Niyimbona
Valeur Nkurikiyinka
MacKenzie Noppe

Ye Nwet
Elyse O'Brien
Lucas Owens-Faucett
Olivia Panegos
Eh Kru Paw
Lah Paw

Logan Pearce
Amelia Pena
Josie Pennington
Brayan Perez
Osvaldo Perez
Yvette Perez-Gomez

Santana Pizano
Larissa Pothoven
Josiah Prunty
Makayla Quinones
Rafael Ramirez
Jayden Rea

Alexus Reed
Hailey Reeds
Jazzmin Rochelle
Joshua Rodgers
Emily Rodriguez
Emily Rodriguez

College Rocks

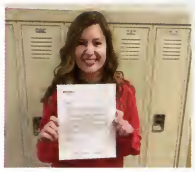
Shaila Christopher was accepted to Illinois State University.

Tristan Lambert was accepted to Monmouth College.

Zoe Veasey was accepted to Columbia College.

Lauryn Dempsey was accepted into Loyola University.

Maggie Honeycutt was accepted into Bradley University.



What is your favorite memory **HERE?**

"Some of my favorite memories here were meeting new friends and going to prom."
JJ Willhite

"Probably our Florida trip back in freshman year. It was a great experience, and I met a lot of different people through it."
Alexa Carpenter

"My favorite memory would be joining marching band junior year. Sadly, I didn't get to participate how I wanted, but I made some great friends and memories."
Karla Marquez

"My favorite memory was when I was sliding on the hand rail, then fell backwards down the stairs in gym freshman year."
Isabel Mizlo

Donovan Rogers
Kaleb Rossi
Juliana Rounds
Anna Rowell
Brandon Ruby
Kailyn Sanders

Shaylynn Sanders
Eh Lar Say
Kmwe Say
Katarina Schultz
Adria Scott
Tereza Sefu

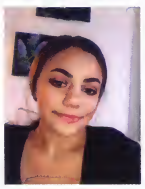
Alfa Sehinda
Hae Ni Sher
Katherine Shewell
Hannah Simmer
Elijah Simmons
Heaven Simpson

Gracie Sims
Aaliyah Smith
Benjamin Smith
Manirumva Sonia Pamela
Uwamahoro Sophie
Perla Sosa

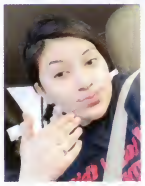
SENIOR CELEBRITY TWINS

"I'm most like Joanna Gaines because I binge watch Fixer Upper."
- **Maggie Honeycutt**

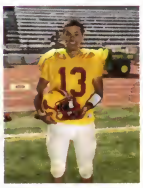
"I'm most like Zendaya because we are both racially ambiguous."
- **Anna Rowell**



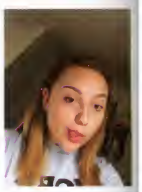
"I'm most like Mike Myers because I act like him."
- **Solomon Gustafson**



"I feel like I'm most like Josh Peck because we are total goofballs and very lighthearted/ enthusiastic, but we both care about the people close to us."
- **Hailey Reeds**



"Jennifer Lawrence, because she's always talking about food."
- **Marice Dodd**



"Andy Sandburg. I look the most like him."
- **Henry Thompson**

"I look like Mila Kunis because a lot of people say we look alike."
- **Bella Wright**

"I like Dulce Maria because she's so good about being secure and does what's good for her."
- **Briseidy Marin**

"Robert Downey JR. because I'm Iron Man."
- **Mj Stern**

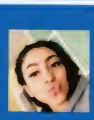
"Emma Chamberlin, because she's obsessed with coffee and is always a nervous wreck."
- **Tristan Lambert**

"Seeing friends every day, no matter what."
Dominic Martin

"I will miss spending time with my friend and the memories in English. I love English."
Ashlynn Hensley-Gay

"Making memories with my friends and the great teachers I had a chance to connect with."
Brayan Perez

"I will miss the football games and Homecoming Week the most."
Angela Camargo



What will you miss most about being **HERE?**

Shaneeya Soumare
Nathan Steinbeck
Mj Stern
Alec Straw
Cody Swisher
Gracie Taber

Samuel Tauke
Kerry Thomas
Henry Thompson
Ashton Timm
Tyler Tipton
Bailey Tripilas

Phoenix Ullrick
Jayden Upton
Florence Uwimana
Jaiden VanCoillie
Libio Vargas
Zoe Veasey

Carson Verstraete
Mariah Vesey
Joseph Viernow
Gwendalyn Waggoner
Emma Wahlmann
Raghen Walker

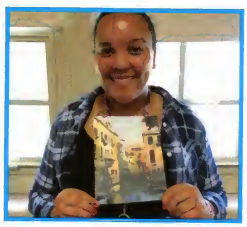
Senior Dream Vacations

Savannah Debus
"I'd go to Santorini, Greece because I love the white buildings with the bright blue ocean."

Maggie Honeycutt
"I'd go back to Barbados because it has the most beautiful beaches, and they let me hold a monkey!"

Anna Rowell
"I'd go to Greece because I used to be obsessed with its mythology!"

Tristinn Davis
"I'd go to Tokyo, Japan because of the food, culture and the car scene."



Zoe Veasey
"I'd go to Venice, Italy because of its history, and it's pretty!"

Olivia Panegos
"I'd go to Italy because my family is from there, and I love pasta."

Karla Marquez
"I'd go to Bora Bora because I love the ocean, and it's aesthetically pleasing."

Bailey Tripilas
"I'd go to Greece because my dad has been there, and told me about it. It seems so beautiful, and has a lot of culture."

Juliana Rounds
"I'd go to Florida because I want to live in and around Hogwarts in Universal Studios!"

Julia Nash
"I'd go to Rome, Italy, to experience the history."

What has kept you motivated **HERE?**

"Meeting all the new people and teachers. Making new friends, and this school has a lot of opportunities, like clubs and out of school activities."
My'Lea Hill

"My love for the teachers and other staff in the building."
Hayley Grunewald

"My parents always motivated me to go above and beyond at Rocky."
Tyler Garrison

"My family has kept me motivated to try my best in everything I do."
Madalynn Brummit

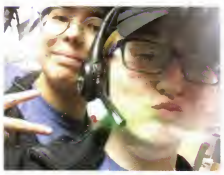
Shae-Lynn Walker
Alijah Walker-Lee
Kaitlyn Welsh
Haley Westfall
Cloe White
Brandon Whittington

Kowen Wilhelm
Jeremiah Willhite
Breona Williams
Kristen Williams
Taliyah Williams
Kisubi Wilondja

Tosha Wilondja
Amber Worthman
Isabella Wright
Jacob Wyers
Nathaniel Yancy
Eh Yee

Manuel Zetina

SENIOR *SPOTS*



Danielle Clark
"My favorite spot to hang out is Schwiebert Park because I love watching the lights appear at night."

Daniela Martinez-Hernandez
"My favorite spot would be Mercado on Fifth that is in downtown Moline. It is only on Friday nights, but they have live music, food trucks, etc. It is a good place to go with friends to have fun for a night."

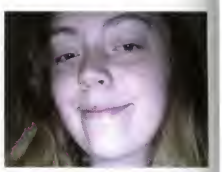
Nicki Mital
"Long John Silvers, because I work down there, and everyone there is like a second family to me."

Madalynn Brummit
"My favorite spot is my friend Meeya's house because I always know when I go over there, I will have a good time, and it is a great distraction from issues."

Darian Harding
"My favorite spot is Morris Field, where I play softball. If I could, I would spent every night there playing softball."

Malachi Key
"My favorite spot is the movies because I just enjoy laughing at funny scenes with friends."

Marice Dodd
"My favorite spot is my grandparents' house because they have the best food, and it is so cozy."



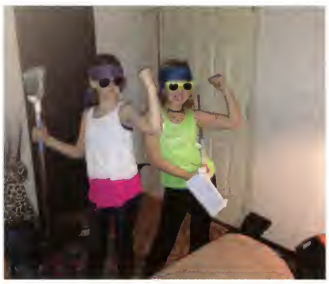
Armonni Parks
"My favorite spot to hang out is Youth Hope because it is, overall, a positive environment to surround yourself in."

Kaleb Littlejohn
"My favorite spot is the fire station because I love volunteering and the brotherhood around the station. I learn new skills and get to teach younger cadets to pass on my knowledge."

Hannah Dale
"My favorite spot is my home. I love knowing I can be safe and completely relaxed."

F•R•I•E•N•D•S *Through the Years*

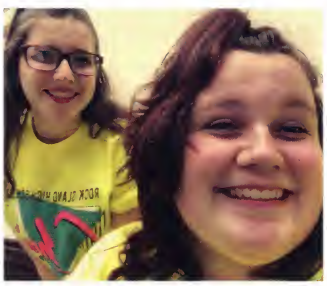
Zachary Bisby and Elijah Simmons from 5th grade to Senior year.



Savannah Debus and Hannah Drish from 5th grade to Senior year.

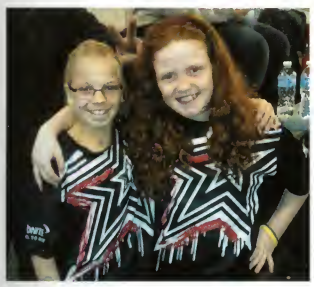
Isaac Almanza and Amelia Peña from Kindergarten to Senior year.

Henry Thompson and Vincent Esposito from Kindergarten to Senior year.

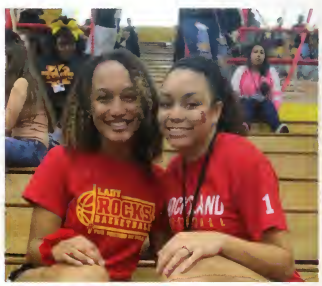


Danielle Clark and Jessica Bell from 3rd grade to Senior year.

MacKenzie Noppe and Hannah Simmer from 8th grade to Senior year.

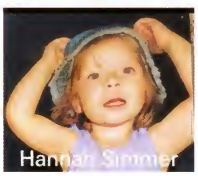


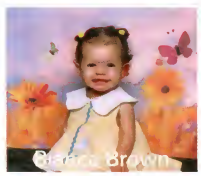
Heather Motley and Bailey Tripilas from 3rd grade to Junior year.



Morgan Freeman and Raghen Walker from 7th grade to Senior year.

From Pebbles





WORDS FROM THOSE WHO ARE Here

"Welcome to the real world. It sucks. You're going to love it." (Monica Geller)

Heather Motley, 12

"You can't go through life being afraid of things, toughen up!"

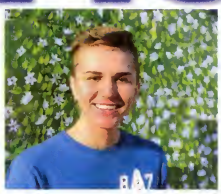
Shaila Christopher, 12

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." (Gandalf the Grey)

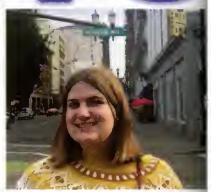
Larissa Pothoven, 12

"No one knows what he can do until he tries."

Andrew McDuffy, 12


"You only truly become an upperclassman when you learn how to walk in the halls."

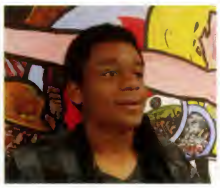
Tye Gordon, 12


"Stupid is as stupid does." (Forrest Gump)

Julia Nash, 12

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."

Elyse O'Brien, 12


"Chili is just spaghetti sauce with beans."

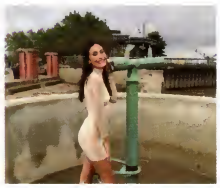
Sja'Lell Mims, 12

"Don't let the fear of unhappiness cripple your pursuit of finding what you believe." (Tyler Joseph)

Bailey Tripilas, 12

"We're not done until we're finished."

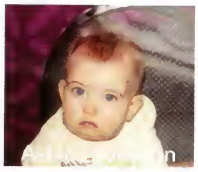
Aminia Mashimango, 12


"Self discipline is self love."

Jazel Carr, 12

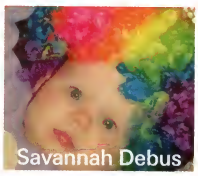
"I remember me waiting for my homework to do itself."

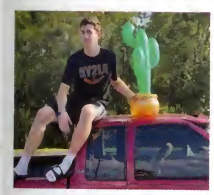
Hae Sher, 12



to

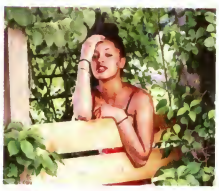
Rocks





"The worst thing about prison was the dementors."
(The Office)

Solomon Gustafson, 12



"Madness is a beautiful irony where perfection and flaws are the best of friends."

Anna Rowell, 12

"Never let anyone treat you like a yellow Starburst. You are a pink Starburst."

Bella Wright, 12

"Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations."

Jessica Bell, 12

"May the rest of our lives be the best of our lives."

Morgan Nesbitt, 12

"One day you're the best thing since sliced bread. The next, you're toast."

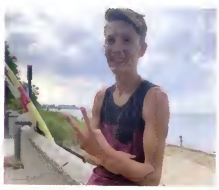
Miranda Banks, 12

"Expect the unexpected because nothing is always something."

Eh Lar Say,12

"You gotta step into the daylight and let it go... Just let it go, let it go."
(Daylight, Taylor Swift)

Juliana Rounds, 12



"A room without books is like a body without a soul."

Austin Meirhaeghe, 12

"People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built."
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

Caresse Murphy, 12

HERE

as a Junior, you are finally an upperclassman. It is your third year here, which means you have been here for some time. Now, you are inching closer to graduation. Whether you are working your first job after school or practicing for your favorite sport, you are still thinking about your future after high school. Now, your future doesn't seem so far away anymore. You have a lot more to balance between your social life and preparing for those big exams that junior year brings.

You stress about the SAT, wondering if you will get a good enough score to get into your dream college. You start taking more AP and career focused courses. Before you know it, spring is around the corner, and you are dressing up for your first prom. This year, you might be captain of a sports team or the lead in the school play. You might be suiting up for Varsity for the first time. You cannot wait until your final year here, when you will be the class that everyone wishes to be.

ROCK
NATION

What is your favorite music to listen to while studying **HERE**?

"I like to listen to R&B or Hip Hop to help me get hyped up about studying."
Olivia Rice

"I usually listen to relaxing or meditation music because it helps me stay focused and actually get my work done."
Johnnie Teague

"I like to listen to screamo while studying. It helps me drown out the stress of homework!"
Nevaeh Sedlak

"I listen to country music while I study because it helps me focus better and think at a deeper level."
Jonathan Knuth

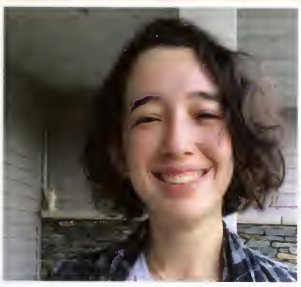
Keaton Adams
Griselda Aguirre
Terrell Akers
Miguel Alba
Natella Alieva
Ysabella Almanza

Alayna Amidon
Aaron Anderson
Jaerica Anderson
Raymond Anderson
Francisco Andrade
Kameron Andrews

Juan Arreguin-Cardenas
Tabitha Ashpaugh
Migambi Athanas
Kairee Atwater
Jaydrien Bailey
Calvin Banks

Emiliano Barrera
Trevor Beckman
Lainey Benson
Cameron Bergheger
Karolina Bergheger
Aubry Berry

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEURS



Riley Ellis, a junior at Rock Island High School, sells digital art commissions online. Ellis has been selling her art since 8th grade. It started off locally at events, such as Crafted QC, but it quickly expanded, thanks to social media. Riley now sells to many different people online. "I love seeing other people's designs," Riley said. She enjoys bringing their designs to life. She also stated that, "I just get to do what I like for fun for money."

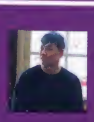
Say Say, also a junior at Rock Island High School, has been making bracelets and selling them to students. "It all started when a family member suggested the idea of selling them, and since it was summer, I had a lot of free time," she explained. Say now runs an Instagram account that is dedicated to her bracelets. Even though school has started, she still makes the time to create more of them. She enjoys bracelet making, and especially enjoys seeing her friends get excited about them.

"German because I enjoy the environment and learning new things in that class."
Kerrigan Lewis

"I loved Creative Writing because the teacher is amazing, and I have a passion for creativity and imagination. This class not only allows me to unleash that passion, but also teaches me how to improve it."
Emily Brown

"Anatomy is my favorite class because I like learning new things about the human body, and I'm looking forward to using it in the future, and becoming an EMT."
Brooke Miller

"Welding because it's a good environment. The teacher, Mr. Weber, is a good dude, who gets along with the students and sets a good work environment, which makes the class better and fun all around."
Logan Boyle



What is your favorite class **HERE** at Rocky?

Silas Best
Sam Bishop
Haley Blair
Eleanor Blew
Isaac Boswell
Logan Boyle

Tyler Bragg
Logan Braun
Jaylen Breackenridge
Calvin Brown
Emily Brown
Jaylen Brozovich

Itangishatse Bujeni
Jamere Burrage
Emily Bush
Zariah Cade
Ashlynn Canfield
Keegan Carnahan

Makenna Carothers
JaRaya Carr
Eduardo Carrillo
Payton Cassidy
Selena Caudillo
Carlos Cervantes

JUNIOR SNAPS

Cearra Hickman & Caitlin Sodeman

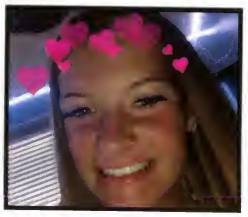
Mackenzie Walker-Lee

Breanna Allen & Alivia Wright

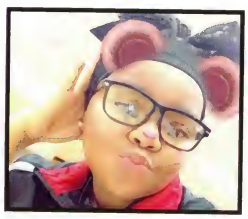
Dominic Serra

Emily Bush

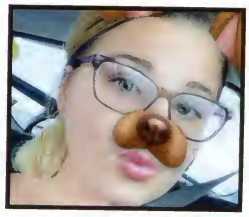
Madison Keever



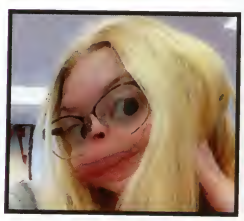
Isabel Drish



December Lewis



Kaylea Roessler

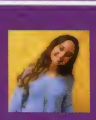


Alayna Amidon

What has been your favorite in class memory **HERE**?

"One of my favorite in class memories is meeting new people, forming bonds, and getting closer with them."
Nora Sierra

"In Ceramics class, I met a ton of new people, and they made learning so much more fun."
Zariah Cade



"My favorite class memory is when the class creates bonds with the teachers. It makes learning much easier and enjoyable."
Mariyam Talybova

"It would have to be the first day of Freshman year because throughout the day, I got to meet new people, and now we're close friends."
Jazmyn Miles

Yesaya Chan
Maura Chandler
Adam Chaney
Rosanna Cisneros
LaMiracle Clay
Hannah Close

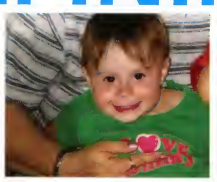
Carson Conger
Ashlee Conner
D'Leyah Conner
Lucas Cook
Nibitanga Cornelio
Niyonkuru Cornelio

Ntiranyibagira Cornelio
Jafet Cruz
Ty Culver
Elizabeth Cupp
Austin Dahlgren
Tatiana DeAnda

Cassidy DeMeyer
Mason Detert
Brayden Diaz
Leticia Dominguez
Avery Donaldson
Kiley Douglas

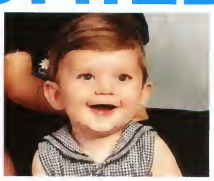
DEFINING *your* CHILDHOOD

Austin Fisher
"Shrek, because that was my movie when I was little, and we watched it every Sunday night, as a family."



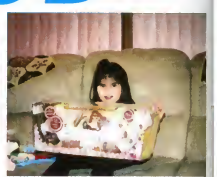
Emily Bush
"Strawberry Shortcake, because everything that I owned was Strawberry Shortcake."

Brooklynn Farrance
"Disney Princesses, because honestly, I just wanted to be one. So, every Halloween, I would dress up as a different princess."



Jonathan Knuth
"The one thing that defined my childhood was breaking things - constantly."

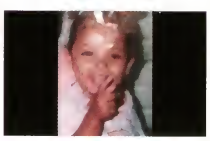
Tia Hearn
"The Cheetah Girls, because back then, it was empowering to see all of the girls dancing and being cool, and I wanted to be one so badly. I would learn all of the dances and the songs. It was my favorite."



Natalia Salazar
"The Bratz dolls, because my mom and dad would always buy them for me, and I loved how different and diverse they were."

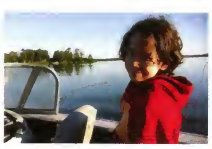
Sarah Stevanovic
"Princesses, because I loved dressing up as one. And, I liked singing along with the songs."

Ashlynn Canfield
"Taylor Swift, because I talked about her 24/7, and was obsessed with her and still am, but she was my role model!"



Cearra Hickman
"Jurassic Park, because everything was always crazy."

Jacob Voigt
"Animals remind me of my childhood, because my grandparents had a farm when I was growing up."



Riley Ellis
"Minnesota reminds me of my childhood, because I spent a lot of time up there as a kid."

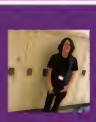
Demetrius Gilkey
"The word 'music' describes my childhood, because my parents were always bumping loud music, and I still want to pursue it later in my life."

What is your favorite sport to watch HERE?

"My favorite sport to watch here is all of them. To just see the student body being supportive is amazing. I love to see it."
Carenn Hayes

"My favorite sport to watch here is basketball because our team goes crazy, and I like watching them succeed."
Mbonigaba Rugagaza

"My favorite sport to watch here is football because I used to play, and it is interesting."
Aaron Anderson



"My favorite sport to watch here is basketball because I used to play, and it is intense almost every game."
Tyler Bragg

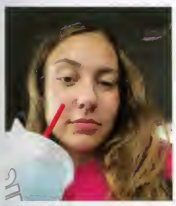
Asha Doukoure
Isabel Drish
Colby Dyer
Sylvester Eddings
Jace Elerick
Evan Elliott

Riley Ellis
Marissa Ethington-Hart
Renee Farmer
Brooklynn Farrance
Joseph Ferguson
Austin Fisher

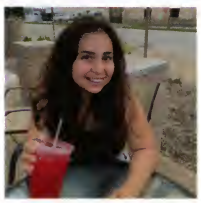
Jacob Fleuter
Vanessa Flores
Niyogushima Florette
Marai Frometa
Natalia Gabriel
Kyle Gant

Donovan Garro
Paw Gay
Shakira'a Gbenyo
Demetrius Gilkey
Noe Gonzalez
Albany Gray

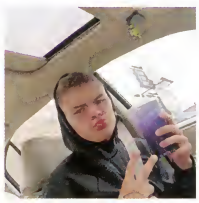
ATOMIC vs. AWAKE



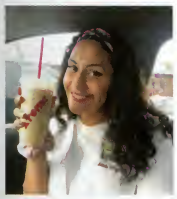
"My favorite Atomic drink is Cotton Candy with Watermelon and White Chocolate. I like Atomic more because the flavors are stronger."
Alyssa Groothaert



"My favorite Awake drink is OOTD. I like Awake more because it has more flavor than Atomic."
Emily Hernandez



"My favorite Awake drink is Purple Rain. I like Awake more because purple rain is fire."
Colton Sigel



"My favorite Atomic drink is Peach Ring, with Mango and White Chocolate. I like Atomic more because the drive there makes the drink taste better."
Serah Waqa

"My favorite drink from Awake is their iced coffees. I like Awake better than Atomic because it is cheaper."
Avery Donaldson

"My favorite Awake drink is Candy Corn Punch. I like Awake more than Atomic because Awake has more flavors to choose from."
Irambona Jusele

"My favorite drink is Blue Air Head, with Strawberry and White Chocolate. I like Atomic more because Awake tastes like carbonated pop."
Natalia Gabriel

"My favorite Awake drink is M-Bomb. I like Awake more than Atomic because it is closer to my house."
DaViona Hearn

"My favorite drink from Awake is JCMO. I like Awake more than Atomic because Awake has the flavors listed in the drink."
Isaiah Kerr

What is your favorite restaurant **HERE** in the Quad Cities?

"My favorite restaurant here would have to be Texas Roadhouse because the rolls are amazing!"
Alexya Stephens

"The restaurant that is my favorite here in the Quad Cities is Applebee's. I love their bacon burgers."
Armani Jack-Hall

"My favorite restaurant here in the Quad Cities is La Rancherita, because Mexican food is the best."
Mady Richardson

"The best restaurant that I like to eat at is Azteca Express because the food there is good, and it feels like a home whenever I go there. The people are nice and helpful."
Tia Hearn

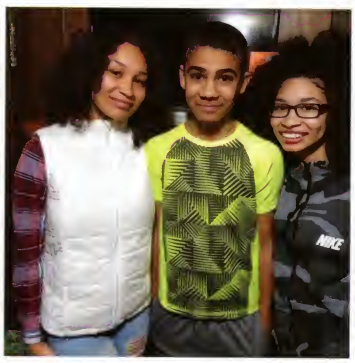
Pharoah Gray
Jalie Green
Alyssa Groothaert
Meeya Guerrero
Arianna Guillory
Joshua Guy

Jacksen Hansen
Julian Harris
Quinn Harty
Carenn Hayes
DaViona Hearn
Tia Hearn

Charly Heber-Spates
Mason Hedburg
George Henderson
Kyle Hendricks
Emily Hernandez
Jesus Hernandez

ROCKY Relatives

"It's pretty fun being able to show Lauren all the cool traditions of Rocky and every aspect of Rocky with her, like going to band competitions, Rocky football games, and participating in Homecoming Week. I look forward to the rest of the year."
Kyle Gant and Lauren Gant



"Going to school with my siblings can be frustrating, at times, but we always have fun when we are together."
Jaerica Anderson, Mariah Anderson, Davian Anderson

"Going to school with my brother is great. Just knowing that he has my back, and I have his back every day. Any time I have a problem or a situation, he usually knows how to handle it. There is never a bad day with my brother."
Karolina Bergheger and Ethan Bergheger

"It feels good to have family go to the same school as me. It makes me feel safe, and whenever I need something or feel any type of way about something, I know I can go to her about it, and it brightens my day to see her every day at school."
Tia Hearn and DaViona Hearn

What's your favorite coffee shop **HERE** in the Quad Cities?

"In my opinion, I really like Starbucks because they have this seasonal drink called Hot Caramel Brulée latte, and it's so good!"

Caitlin Sodeman

"QC Fuel is my favorite coffee shop in the Quad Cities because their menu has a wide variety of different types of hot and cold drinks, and you can choose everything that goes in your drink."

Kaylea Roessler

"Dunkin Donuts is my favorite coffee shop in the Quad Cities because there's so many flavor options that you can choose from. Plus, I really like that you don't have to stick to the menu. You can create your own drink with whatever you want in it."

Emily Bush

"My favorite coffee shop would probably be Awake because of the atmosphere. There are many different options as far as drinks and foods. It's also one of my favorite places because of the memories I've had going there with my best friend and my boyfriend."

Miranda Igo

Ethan Hinds
Delaney Hoing
Valerie Holland
Corbin Hollars
Ashondria Holmes
Addison Holub

Gabrialle Horton
Bernard Howard
Reese Hoyer
Spae Htway
Austyn Hulsey
Ian Hussey

Juan Ibarra
Miranda Igo
Emma Ingram
Jesse Jenkins
Kaiden Jenkins
Daniel Johnson

Inspiring Instructors

Calvin Banks
"Mr. Duster is my favorite because he's a great teacher and he's very charismatic!"

Cassidy DeMeyer
"Mr. Campbell is my favorite teacher because he has fun when he teaches, and he adapts to each students' learning requirements, and even though he isn't teaching this year, he's just overall a good person. He never hesitates to say, 'Hello', 'Good Morning', or ask how I've been. He's one of my biggest supporters."

Mackenzie Walker- Lee
"Mr. Melody is my favorite teacher because he strives to make sure I'm on top of my work. He knows when I'm struggling in math, and helps me out. He engages with his students, and he is an overall great teacher. To me, he's a wise figure in my life, and I can go to him for almost anything I need."

Caitlin Sodeman
"Mr. Voigt is my favorite teacher because he's very understanding. He knows how to make a bad day into a good one, and he's also very fun to sing with."

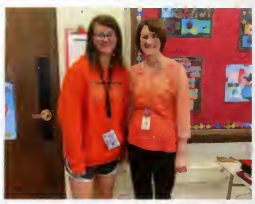
Ashlynn Canfield
"Mrs. Regan is my favorite teacher because she's very easy going, and she's very nice. She's a very good teacher, and always treats everyone with respect!"

Dominic Saucedo-Serra
"My favorite teacher is Mrs. Randolph because she keeps me in check and always has a positive attitude."

Kaylea Roessler
"My favorite teacher is Madame Bouchareb because she's always giving a helping hand. She loves all of her students, and always makes me smile!"

Austin Fisher
"My favorite teacher is Mr. Rogers because he's always supportive of me, and he's my favorite football coach. He also really cares about his students."

Alivia Wright
"Mrs. Trimble is my favorite teacher because she gave me help, a little hope, and always believed in me. She's just a wonderful teacher."



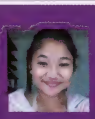
Makenna Carothers
"Mrs. Bohling is my favorite teacher because she's really good at making sure everyone understands what we're learning, and she's really nice."

What is your favorite memory **HERE?**

"My favorite memory here is in Orchestra class. We were playing with our instruments, and Mrs. Benson stopped to talk to the class. Someone cracked a joke and I remembered how I couldn't stop laughing."
Lily Paw

"My favorite memory here is the FNL football."
Jaerica Anderson

"My favorite memory here is volunteering with the Student Ambassadors whenever we get the chance because the little kids are adorable."
Abbigale Ramussen



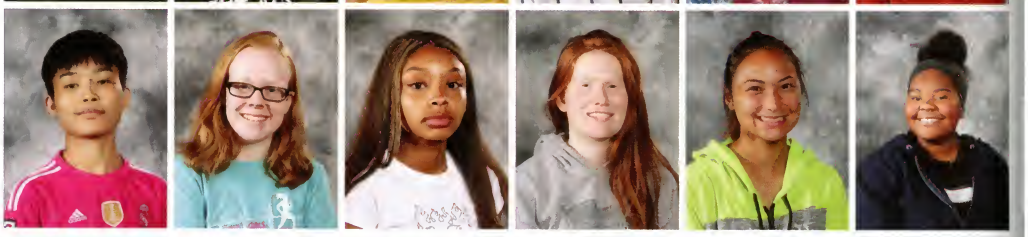
"My favorite memory here is when I played tennis and our team won, so we were all happy and it felt like we were all connected as one."
Paw Gay

Raven Johnson
Ravon Johnson Taylor
Destani Jones
Julius Jones
MaKayla Jones
Yasmin Jones

Ugeziwe Joseph
Irambona Jusele
Alex Kaalberg
Aisley Kask
Madison Keever
Gage Kelley

Isaiah Kerr
Andrew Kibling
Chloe Killian
Jonathan Knuth
Chayanna Kraus
Ean Kress

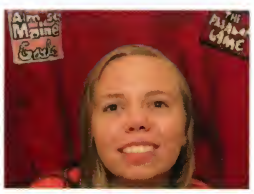
Paw Krin
Victoria LaMay
Brooklynn Larson
Jaiden Latcham
Sher Lei
December Lewis



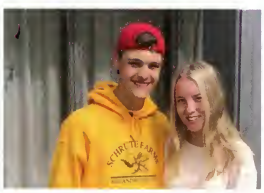
Junior [HIDDEN TALENTS]

"I've been playing piano since I was 12."
Jafet Cruz

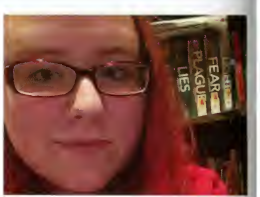
"I can fit my whole fist inside my mouth."
Nevaeh Sedlak



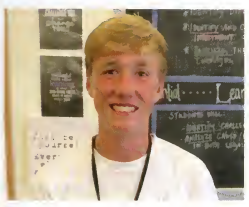
"I like to put patches on my varsity jackets."
Allyson Smithson



"I can count to 10 in Finnish."
Calvin Banks



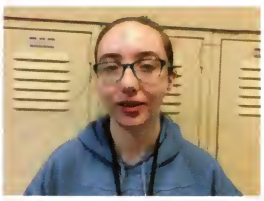
"I can read a book, depending on the pages, in about 2 weeks."
Aubry Berry



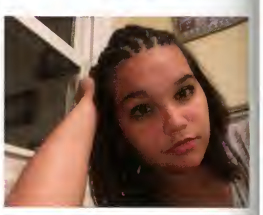
"I can move both of my ears without my hands."
Kyle Gant

"When I'm not dealing with school, I usually am volunteering."
Hannah Close

"I've been playing tennis for three years."
Paw Gay



"I can do the splits."
Macy O'Mary



"I can draw and do 3-D makeup art."
Destani Jones

"My best friend here is Har Ree because we always have a good time together and make bad times good."
Ethan Williams

"My best friend here is Terrell Akers because we have been through a lot, and he always keeps it real."
Lavonti Wells

"My best friend here is Daniel Johnson because we have been through everything together since freshman year. He is one of the few people I can trust with anything."
Ben Samuelson

"My best friend here is DaViona Hearn. She has been like my sister since day one and always has my back."
A'Iyeshanique Hines

Who is your best friend **HERE?**

Kerrigan Lewis
Manuel Limon
Justice Lockhart
Maung Loe
Mmembe Lolonga
Clevon Long

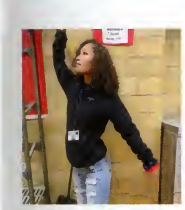
Emma Long
Rachel Loomis
Jennifer Lopez
Mason Love
Drake Lowry
JaQuon Lue

Dylan MacDonald
Neema Manasse
Janvier Maniragaba
David Marceleno-Robles
Asia Matthews-Miller
Abigail May

Logan McCarthy
T'Mariyona McCoy
Ella McKinley
Marte' McKinney
Roberto Mendez
Christian Mendoza

Juniors ❤️ emojis

Jaerica Anderson

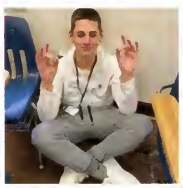


"I like this emoji because he looks like he loves life."

Jacksen Hansen

"I like this emoji because I like saying no."

Mason Finch

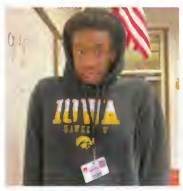


"I like this emoji because it's relaxing."

Elizabeth Cupp

"I like this emoji because my hair matches it."

Romeo Metcalf

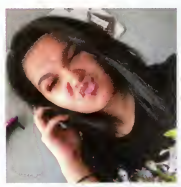


"I like this emoji because it looks risky."

Kyle Hendricks

"I like this emoji because I love to go fishing."

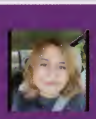
Destani Jones



"I like this emoji because it's cute."

What is your favorite lunch **HERE?**

"My favorite lunch here is the Spicy Chicken Salad with lots of Ranch and a touch of French."
Arianna Guillory



"My favorite lunch here is the pasta!"
Jennifer Lopez

"My favorite lunch here is the Chinese food."
JaQuez Johnson

"My favorite lunch here is the Spicy Chicken Sandwich with ketchup."
Brandon Pannebaker

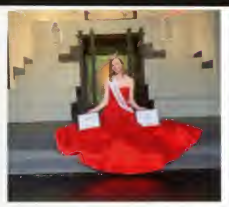
Juan Mendoza-Perez
Romeo Metcalf
Eric Michaels
Jazmyn Miles
Brooke Miller
Alex Minani

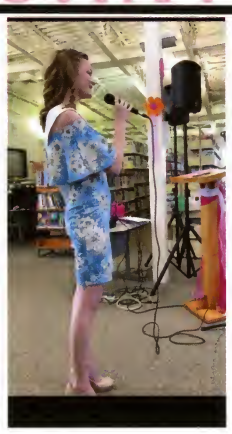
Eh Moo
Ta Moo
Diego Moreno
Amure' Murphy
Michael Nadeau
Quinton Nettles

Bell New
Gabriel Nightingale
Lyric Nolin
Alesia Nunez
Olufemi Ojelade
Tiffany O'Leary

Macy O'Mary
Matthew Patton
Lily Paw
Dylan Pearson
Emily Pearson
Ariana Perez

IF THE CROWN FITS

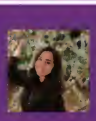




Emma Widick started her pageant career later than most of her opponents, who began at a young age. Even though Emma did not start until age 14, this did not hold her back, by any means. Emma has competed in 4 different pageants, and has won 3 of them. Her first title was Jr. Miss Rock Island County Fair in 2017. Soon after, Emma competed in and won Miss Blackhawk Valley's Outstanding Teen in 2019. Then, she competed and won the title of Miss Mississippi Crown in 2020. With her wins, she was ensured a position to compete at state for Miss Illinois' Outstanding Teen. "To me, winning means being given the job of helping change my community and the world around me," said Emma. Emma has secured her titles with her singing talent and her platform. Emma has a platform of supporting veterans in the community, and trying to break the stigma against mental health plaguing veterans. "It's not about what the crown can do for you, it's about what you can do for the crown," explained Emma.

"AP US History because of Mrs. Randolph."
Calvin Banks

"AP Language and Composition because it is entertaining and prepares me for college."
Emily Hernandez



"AP Language and Composition because of Mrs. Greenwood! She makes it fun."
Ella Spence

"AP Biology because the material is really interesting!"
Brooke Farrance

What has been your favorite AP class **HERE?**

Arrika Perkins
Ishmael Pizano
Roverto Pizano Alba
Jennifer Poole
Jared Prather
Addison Price

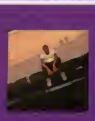
Amarah Priddy
TaNyha Pugh-Nimmers
Izabel Rade
Lizbeth Ramirez
Demario Rankin
Abbigale Rasmussen

Har Ju Ree
Noah Rettig
Jordan Rice
Madysen Richardson
Zaide Rivera
Wendy Rodriguez Jocobo

JUNIORS COMPETE WITH PRIDE

Where do you work around **HERE?**

"I work at Happy Joe's in Milan, and the best part about working there is getting paid on Thursday instead of Friday."
Jaerica Anderson



"I work at Pro Clean Car Wash, and the best part about working there is getting tips, and seeing some nice cars."
Perry Slater

"I work at Journey's in Northpark Mall, and the best part about working there is being around shoes, and being the first to see new ones coming out."
Natalia Gabriel

"I work at Chick-fil-a in Moline, and the best part about working there is getting a 50% discount on everything."
Addison Price

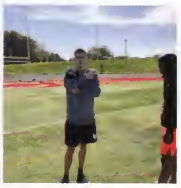
Michael Roelens
Kaylea Roessler
Marriyon Rogers
Spiret Rogers
Kayla Rohr
Haylie Roos

Mbonigaba Rugagaza
Nasia Ruiz
Terrance Russell
Kaba Sakho
Natalia Salazar
Benjamin Samuelson

Johny San
Dominic Sanchez
Mya Sargeant
Alisia Sarver
Dominic Saucedo-Serra
Hay Ro Say

Paw Say
Say Say
Darian Schavers
Audrey Seams
Nevaeh Sedlak
Ni Shee

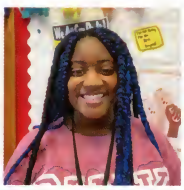
What is on your BUCKET LIST?



Colton Sigel
"One thing on my bucket list is to go to Australia, and flush a toilet to see if it really spins the other way."

Spiret Rogers
"One thing on my bucket list is to go to the North Pole."

Avery Donaldson
"One thing on my bucket list is to go on vacation to Hawaii because it is always warm there, and I hate the cold and winter."



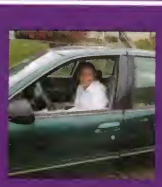
JaRaya Carr
"One thing on my bucket list is to go bungee jumping, even though I am scared to do it."

Maura Chandler
"One thing on my bucket list is to go see the Northern Lights."

Isaiah Kerr
"One thing on my bucket list is to put everything I want into my car before I get a new one."

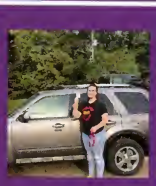
Devin Swift
"One thing on my bucket list is to go to Tokyo because it seems fun, and it would be a new experience."

"A 1998 Chevy Lumina. I feel more free."
Meeya Guerrero



"A 2006 Saturn. I love the freedom I get."
Audrey Seams

"A 2012 Ford Escape. I love driving around with my best friend."
Emily Bush



"I drive a 2010 Chevy Impala. It's nice to have that freedom to go where I want, when I want."
Raymond Anderson

What do you drive **HERE?**

Samson Shukuru
Nora Sierra
Colton Sigel
Michael Simmons
Perry Slater
Kristina Smith

Tommy Smith
Allyson Smithson
Madeline Smutzer
Caitlin Sodeman
Hae Soe
Thein Soe

Wah Soe
James Sparks
Rmakiah Speights
Ella Spence
Ethan Sprague
Alexya Stephens

Sarah Stevanovic
Bobby Stewart
Carter Stone
Malenga Sumaili
Devin Swift
Jaime Swisher

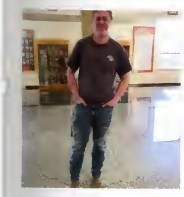
ALL ABOUT SHOES

"My boots because they are comfortable and practical, because I am in welding, and I love cowboy boots."
Colby Dyer

"My all black high top Vans because I have wanted them for years, and they are a gift from my boyfriend, so they mean something, and I think I look pretty neat wearing them."
Ellie Cupp

"My go to shoes are my black and orange ones. They fit best, and match what I wear, and are very comfortable."
D'Leyah Conner

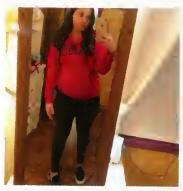
"Vans because they are comfortable."
Abby Thrap



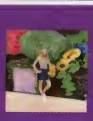
"K-Swiss because it is the only pair of shoes I have."
Ethan Sprague

"My Nike RN FLYKNIT because they are my most comfortable shoes."
Jared Prather

"My go to shoes are my slides because they are comfy."
Terrell Akers



What has been the most meaningful group you have been a part of **HERE?**



"Marching Band because I feel really accomplished at the end of the season. And, it gets me out of the house and exercising most days."
Eleanor Blew

"I would probably say the Drama Dept. Chamber also holds a very special place in my heart, but they both have not only taught me work ethic and professionalism, but the meaning of a team, too. Nothing can replace the memories I have made there, and the friends I will have for years to come."
Charly Heber-Spates

"Swimming because we have a great team bond."
Shay Wright

"Marching Band, definitely because it is just such an amazing opportunity, and you meet the most amazing people."
Alesia Nunez

Trenton Syler
Mariyam Talybova
Taw Taw
Thomas Taylor
Johnnie Teague
Erin Teggatz

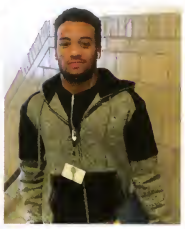
Ashley Testa
Eh Kler Tha
Siang Thang
Hay Law Lar Thaw
Min Thaw
Adriel Thomas

Abagail Thrap
Darion Upton
Maria Valverde-Yepez
Stephen Villarreal
Jacob Voigt
Kyle Waggoner

Paw Wah
Mackenzie Walker-Lee
James Walls
Ani Walrath
Rachel Wangler
Serah Waqa

FAVORITE FOODS FOREVER

Rocky students explain what food they would eat forever, if they could.



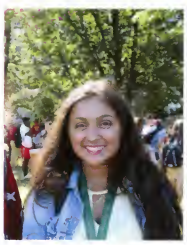
Jaylen Breackenridge
"Chicken alfredo- it's my favorite."

Aisley Kask
"Beef fried rice. It's delicious, healthy, and relatively cheap."

Alexis Fuller
"Any type of of Mexican food- it's my favorite."

Kristina Smith
"Sushi- it's unique and good for you."

Marissa Ethington- Hart
"I would have tacos because there are many different types. I've eaten them growing up, so they hold a very special place in my heart."



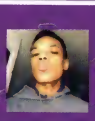
Emma Long
"Scrambled eggs!"

What's it like being an upperclassman HERE?

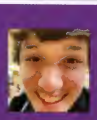
"The best part about being an upperclassman here is being able to drive to school on your own."
Ani Walrath

"The best part about being an upperclassman here is you do not have to be on 3rd floor anymore."
Austin Dahlgren

"The best part about being an upperclassman here is being able to sit towards the front of the student section."
Antoine Carruthers



"The best part about being an upperclassman here is that people do not see you as young or immature anymore."
Trevor Beckman



Remonea Watson
Lauren Weeks
Jaylen Whitney
Emma Widick
Daymion Williams
Ethan Williams

TyShawn Williams
Aaron Willis
San Da Win
Jamyah Winter
Alyssa Wood
Darrell Woodson

Alivia Wright
Shay Wright
Logan Wyers
Ahishakiye Yvette
Blake Zahner
Christian Zepeda

Richard Zeroth

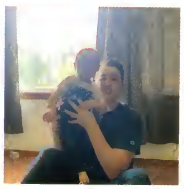
FAVORITE DISNEY MOVIES

"My favorite Disney movie is Avengers End-Game because of the excitement."
Brayden Diaz

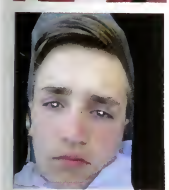
"My favorite Disney movie is Coco because I like how he is determined to sing."
Natella Alieva

"My favorite Disney movie is Brave because I think everyone should feel brave."
Niyogushima Florette

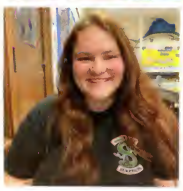
"My favorite Disney movie is Hercules because he is cool."
Carlos Cervantes



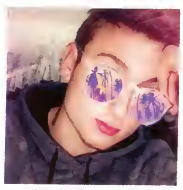
"My favorite Disney movie is Lion King because it was the first one I ever watched."
Logan McCarthy



"My favorite Disney movie is Toy Story because I used to think my toys came to life, too."
Jaydn Winter



"My favorite Disney movie is Beauty and the Beast because I grew up watching it."
Ysabella Almanza

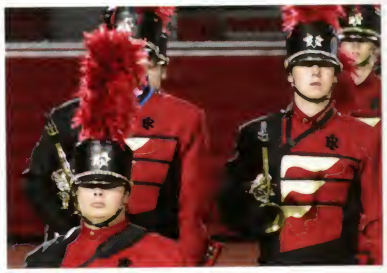


"My favorite Disney movie is Wall-E because it's cool."
Cameron Bergheger

HERE

it is now your second year, and navigating through the school is a much easier process. By now, you know almost half of the staff here at Rocky. There are new classes that you can take, such as Chemistry, Health, and Earth Science. Eventually, you will get your learner's permit to drive, and while your turns and lane changes might be hard at first, you will soon get used to the rules of the road through Drivers Ed. You begin to be more involved with the extra curriculars. You cheer in the stands at games with all of your fellow classmates at the Rock. Most of the freshmen now look up to your class. Some of you have been working hard to get a spot on Varsity teams. Others have been working on their roles for plays, and working on their grades. But just remember, you are a big part of life at the Rock, and your time here is just getting started.

ATA WALL
LLINOIS



What is your favorite band memory **HERE?**

"My favorite band memory is our home games. I say that because it's on our court. It's our turf, our home. Our family home, and it's where we sing our Alma Mater every year. It's our family home."
Elizabeth Aguilar

"My favorite memory is when we made finals at Downers Grove, even though our props broke."
Caleb Smith

"My favorite memory is the bus rides, because all of the fun with friends."
Sarrah Brown

"My favorite band memory is when we made finals for the first time at State, because it was my first show and the whole band was really fun."
Josh Briggs

Mohamed Abdalla
Hawa Abdould-Kadri
Benjamin Abell
Grace Adams
Elizabeth Aguilar
Murad Ahmed
Eliza Aleman
Jason Allgood

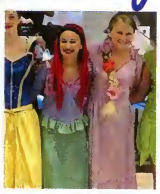
Emily Allison
Isabella Allison
Umar Alsamarai
Rodrigo Alvarado
Marieon Anderson
Colten Anderson-Bradley
Michelle Anglese
Ariana Anguiano

Gavin Arp
Marco Arredondo Lopez
Jason Arroyo Vasquez
Alexa Avalos
Mario Balandran
Hamidullah Barikzay
Selena Barnes
Kara Baumunk

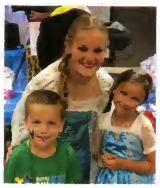
Baker Beal
Zachary Beckman
Daniel Bejarano
Gutierrez
Nyambanguka Benise
Ysabell Benton
Aoci Bernard
Kyle Bisby
Christopher Bisubeho

SOPHOMORE Royalty

These five sophomore princesses love volunteering for the Royal Ball Run because they like seeing all of the children's faces light up when they see all of the princesses. These girls love being able to hug all of the kids, take pictures with them, and dance with them. They also enjoy cheering on the little kids while they play carnival games.



Kelly Canning as Ariel
...
"I loved the movie when I was a kid."



Olivia Bowman as Elsa
...
Olivia Bowman became involved in this program and got the opportunity to be Elsa because her mother is involved in the organization.

Ella Munday as Rapunzel
...
"I chose her because I have blonde hair, and I knew how excited the kids would be to be able to play with my long hair extensions."

Madison Chastain as Anna
...
"I picked her because all the kids love her and I wanted to give the magical experience!"

Sophia Sigler as Snow White
...
"I looked the most like her."

"Off of third, it is way better. The halls are way less crowded."
Namonea Watson

"It's better not having to walk around one floor so much."
Baker Beal

"You don't have to walk up so many steps just to get to your first period."
Mekayla Welsh

"I get to see more faces, and since my friends are all older, I see them a lot more."
Brionjanique Stewart

What is it like to be off of third floor **HERE?**

Tyler Black
Abraham Blanco
Elian Blanco
Alanna Blasko
Elijah Boeye
Jeremie Bond
Ivan Boone
Amiee Borchardt

Dameon Borders
Olivia Bowman
Charlotte Boyer
Avery Brandt
Jeramiah Brandt
Joshua Briggs
Jacinto Brito Marcos
Mackenzie Brokaw

Sarrah Brown
Joseph Brune
Dayzion Bryson
Daphne Calderon
Jonnayah Campbell
Kilaya Campbell
Kelly Canning
Tatiana Carapia

Austin Carlson
Guinevere Carr
Caden Carroll
McKenzie Casselman
Anahi Castaneda
Cesar Castaneda
Donavin Caston
Consuela Chapman
Casco

SOPHOMORES ON VARSITY

"It is a privilege to be a part of something amazing, but the best part about it is the people that I am surrounded with."

- Diego Ruiz

"It's a special feeling to be able to play up. There isn't a better feeling than playing under the Friday Night Lights."

- Calvin Larson

"It's very exciting, but also a very humbling experience. I love going out there on Fridays and playing for my team and the city of Rock Island."

- Eli Reese

"It's a real honor to be able to play with this team and these girls. We work so hard, day in and day out, and they help me grow as a person every day."

- Lexi Thompson

"I feel very honored because I know that it takes confidence, hard work, and determination to play at this level."

- Alejandro Torres

What is it like to learn to drive **HERE?**

"I like drivers ed here because it gives me the opportunity to leave school and get more hands on experience."
Grace Gustafson

"I like drivers ed here because the teachers make it fun."
Gabriella Taber

"I like drivers ed here because there are real life scenarios that help me actually get in the rhythm of driving."
Maddie Polito

"It was tiring waking up ear during the summer, but it was a good experience, and I like the drivers ed teachers here."
Kelly Canning

Madison Chastain
Virginia Clay
Brittney Colvin
Nevaeh Counts-Jones
Ava Coussens
Cohen Crawford
Zaria Crider
Kenzie Crimmins

Kaniya Davis
Tyler Davis
Mallory Day
Steven Dean
Drew DeMarlie
Zachary DeMarlie
Mason Dillard
Zabrian Dillin

Lisa Dominguez
Iradukunda Dorine
Colton Dorr
Antwony Doss
Victor Duarte
Adolphina Ebubu
LaTwun Echols
Kairi Ehlers

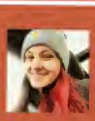
Irakoze Emery
Ian Empen
Cassandra Engels
Glen Evans
Layla Eygabroad
Lif'e Farley
Aden Farrell
Aleric Feighner

Sophomore AVID

"The Vita Ice Drinks."
Baker Beal

"The slushies and chocolate chip cookies are my favorite!"
Natalie VanCoillie

"Doritos."
Katie Kavanaugh



"The mini blue Gatorades."
Edwin Beltran

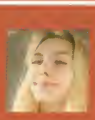
What is your favorite snack line item **HERE?**

Georgi Feigley
Madelyn Fentress
Rebecca Ferguson
Mitchell Ferkel
Dylan Ferrel
Amethyst Fidoe
Jaiden Fields
Luis Flores
Crystal Fragogiannis
Andrew Freeman
Paige Frees
Rebecca Freiburg
Michael Fuentes
Phoebe Fuller
Jasmine Garduno
Fredrick Gay
Omareon Gay
Samara Gay
Trichelle Gay
Xander George
Emmanuel Goeh
Noeli Gonzalez
Maria Gonzalez Moreno
Carli Gordon
Edgar Grandberry
Logan Grandstaff
Taleah Gray
Connor Green
Grace Gustafson
Karina Guzman
Mykia Hagan
Tyler Halligan

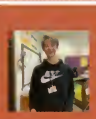
ROCKS TO TIGERS

Taylor Pannell is a sophomore who committed to Auburn University on January 8th, 2018 as an 8th grader. At such a young age, Pannell made one of the biggest decisions of her life. "The facilities were great, the tradition was super cool, and they had a lot of young talent coming up," said Pannell. Taylor was the Varsity starting 3rd baseman for the Rock Island Rocks. Pannell batted .453 for her batting average in the lead off spot for the Rocks, with 8 home runs and 29 stolen bases. Pannell also added 16 doubles, 30 RBIs, and 47 runs scored to help the Rocks. "My biggest strength, I believe, is my combination of power and speed," said Pannell. Pannell helped the Rocks claim another Conference Championship and a Regional Title. Pannell will be a 2022 graduate, and will attend Auburn University directly after high school.

Who is a teacher who has influenced you a lot **HERE?**



"Mr. Duster, because he doesn't just teach, he will help you understand what you are learning. He likes to act out some of the units we are learning."
Emma Richey



"Mr. Carlin because he teaches me a lot."
Ben Riecke

"Mr. Butler influenced me the most because his office is more like a safe place. He cares about all of his students very much, and the students look up to him. He understands everyone's situation."
Isabella Lopez

"Mrs. Trimble because she taught me to work harder."
Mateo Pena

Elizabeth Hamilton
LaTyrianna Hamilton
Secret Hampton
Shamya Hampton
Tyler Hansen
Savannah Harding
DeVonne Harris
Shawn Harrison

Ashlie Heggen
Marchello Henderson
LaQuita Henning
Mauricio Hernandez
Javier Hernandez Limon
Laci Hickenbottom
Daryll Hicks
Damian Hobert

JoAnne Hodges
Isaiah Horice
Talayiah Horice
Alonzo Horne
Austin Hoteling
Eh Htoo
Win Htun
Hanna Hultgren

Careem Hunter
Francisca Ibarra
Aime Iranyibutse
Leon Isaac
Octavis Isom
Armani Jack-Hall
Aaliyah Jackson
Breanna Jackson

SOPHOMORE *Running Rocks*

"I plan on taking a language class."
Mikhaila Sherrard

"Marching Band."
Logan Newberry

"I'm looking forward to taking Current Events because I have always been interested in learning more about what is going on around me and what I can do to change it."
Madison Walker

"AP Environmental Science."
Ana Lampert

What is a class you are looking forward to taking **HERE?**

Tyana Jackson
Jeniffer Jaramillo
Drew Jarding
Christian Johnson
Darionna Johnson
Dylan Johnson
Freddie Johnson
Nathan Johnson

Olivia Johnson
Trammel Johnson
Tongil Kalomba
Kezimana Karine
Zachary Karn
Campbell Kelley
Marielle Kelley
Jerzee Kernan

Uda Kimba
Rebecca Kirzeder
Jacob Kitterman
Melyni Knott
Farrah Kraklow
Mackenzie Kreger
Nathan Krug
Devin Krup

Eh Ku
Owen Kump
Dylin Laktas
Logan Lambrecht
Ana Lampert
Calvin Larson
Mereweneza-Patrick Lavie
Peh Lay

"I hangout with my friends, go to games, and play soccer."
- Olivia Bowman

"I play travel volleyball and hangout with my friends."
- Emily Allison

"I like to do athletics in my free time."
- Mateo Pena

"I like to sleep in my free time."
- DeVonne Harris

"I like to hangout with my best friends."
- Delia Schwartz

"I hangout with friends and play sports."
- James Porter

"I like to play basketball."
- Jaylin Randle

"I like to hangout with my friends and family."
- Sydney Quinones

"I like to spend time with my friends in my free time."
- Emilio Pompa

I like to do photography in my free time."
- Kenneth Thompson

"I work and I run a makeup business."
- Eliza Aleman

"I like to hangout with my friends or go to the gym."
- Zack Beckman

"I drive around and listen to music, and go eat with my friends."
- Jayla Upton

"I hangout with friends and sleep."
- Mackenzie Brokaw

"I like to hangout with friends and go to the gym."
- Amarion Nimmers

Off The Clock

What is it like being friends with upperclassmen **HERE?**

"Sad, because you have to watch your friends leave."
Kairi Ehlers

"I like it. I like it because they have been here longer, and pretty much know what's going on, and they always offer to help you with your work if you ever need it."
Katie Kavanaugh

"It's not too much different from being friends with anyone else, but it's nice to have friends among different grade levels."
Aleric Feighner

"They give me good advice, and I have lots of good memories with them."
Alaina Muller

Mawazo Laycee
Pearce Lelonek
Sofia Leone
JaMaie Lindsey
Kole Littlejohn
Gabriella Lloyd
Jacob Long
Isabella Lopez

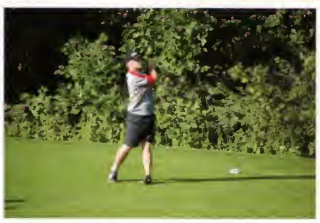
Monserrat Lopez
Kursten Lovell
Ethan MacMillan
Layla Mahmutovic
Kyi Man
Marina Mancera
Jenny Marceleno
Omar Marceleno-Alba

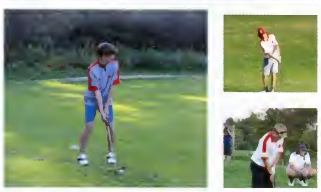
Natalia Marshall
Tyler Martin
Erik Maston
Janine Mawazo
Janaya Mayfield
Marysa McClary
Joseph McCullough
Tristen McDonough

Imari McDuffy
Brycen McGarry
Anden McKinney
Doniere McNeal
Arianna McRae
Jamaurya Medlock
Andrew Meeks
Hunter Melody

SOPHOMORES IN SPORTS

SOPHOMORE BASKETBALL



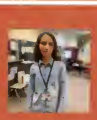


SOPHOMORE GOLFERS

SOPHOMORE FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS

SOPHOMORE VOLLEYBALL

"I'll be 16, have a driver's license, and have my sister at the same school as me again."
Damian Hobert



"I am looking forward to having more privileges and helping the underclassmen around the school."
James Porter

"It's one step closer to graduating and going out on my own. It also means prom, which is really exciting."
Najah Vesey

"I'm looking forward to getting to choose which college I get to attend."
Brisa Perez

What are you looking forward to about being an upperclassman **HERE?**

Jose Mendez
Melissa Mendoza-Perez
Demetrius Meyers-Bryant
Liyah Millbrook
Kaelic Miller
Raequan Miller
Christian Mills
Tyreek Mills

Raja Mims
Jacolby Moffett
Tessa Monroe
Presley Mooney
Briana Moreno
Espoir Muhoza
Response Muhoza
Alaina Muller

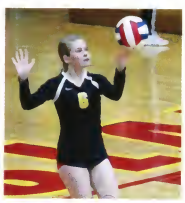
Ella Munday
Montgomery Murdock
Heaven Myers
Shanne Nadado
Jonathan Nadeau
DeVonte Nathan-Prince
Makayla Neal
Niyogusenga Neema

Logan Newberry
Summer Newberry
Amarion Nimmers
Willy Niyonzima
Favour Noya
Win Nwet
Aileni (Irene) Nzoyitazira
Hlaing Oo

SOPHOMORE STARRING ROLES

"Hannah Montana because who wouldn't want the best of both worlds."

- Alaina Muller



"The Bachelor because it would be fun to make friends and get the chance to meet the love of my life."

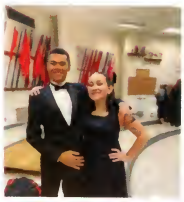
- Mackenzie Brokaw

"I would want to be in the tv show Friends because it's a never ending show about love, family, friends, and fun, with all the people you love. It sounds pretty perfect to me."

- Crystal Fragogiannis

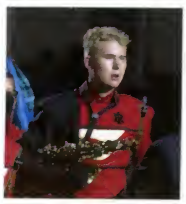
"Spongebob, because it was a big part of my childhood."

- Jacob Stribling



"The old t.v. show, Good Times, because I think I'd fit in with a sitcom family."

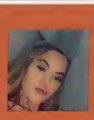
- Jay Richardson



"Jeopardy, because of the money."

- Logan Newberry

What have you learned about **HERE** after freshman year?



"After my freshman year, I have learned that often times, friend groups split and find new friends."
Kaitlyn Parker

"I've learned to have patience with those around me, and to push myself academically."
Benise Nyambanguka

"Since freshman year, I learned to push out of my comfort zone. I also realized that there are a lot of teachers willing to help us if we are willing to put in the effort."
Hailee Schwab

"Since freshman year, I learned that high school was not what I thought it would be, and you have to actually work to pass. You have to work hard to succeed."
LaTyrianna Hamilton

Tha Oo
Sage Oviatt
Madison Panick
Brandon Pannebaker
Taylor Pannell
Kaitlyn Parker
JaNigh Parks
Radell Parks

Traveon Parks
Nibitanga Pascalin
Soe Paw
Ywa Hay Paw
Brandon Pearce
Mateo Pena
Brigitte Pendeza
Brisa Perez

Santiago Perez
Jaibreonna Phillips
Jaysha Phillips
Diane Pilipili
Madelynn Polito
Emilio Pompa
James Porter
Riley Potter

Ricoyah Price
Bailey Proffitt
Robert Pulliam
Sydney Quinones
Bailey Ramirez
Kelsey Ramirez
Jaylin Randle
Aden Rasmussen

IF YOU REALLY KNEW ME...

"You would know that I can sing."
Eliza Aleman

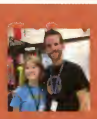
"You would know that even though I am quiet, I can be really funny."
Tatiana Carapia

"You would know that I love to snowboard."
Cori Williams

"You would know that I love to help other students with sports and academics."
Jaylin Randle

"You would know that I have been dancing since 3, and competitive dancing since I was 6."
Alaina Muller

"My favorite part is singing. I love to sing whenever I get the chance to, and in choir, I learn how to sing better, and make my voice much stronger."
Kara Baumunk



"My favorite part about being in choir at Rocky would definitely be that the performance is different and special, along with everyone in them, and I look forward to them every year."
Rosadalia Rocillo

"I think the best part about being in choir is learning new songs from different cultures because it's something different than we've ever done before."
Emma Richey

"To me, the best part about being in choir is having the constant support from so many of the students. It's like a family, and most us only want the best for each other. We're constantly growing, and there's just such a great energy when we're all on the stage. I honestly don't think I've felt anything so strong."
Heaven Myers

What is the best part of being in choir **HERE?**

Ethan Raymond
Jason Redding
Brian Reed
Eli Reese
Hede Reyes
Alexis Reynolds
Jay Richardson
Myles Richardson

Emma Richey
Benjamin Riecke
Kai Rios
Colleen Roark
Rosadalia Rocillo
Lillian Rodriguez
Kennedy Roggenbauer
Jacob Rohwer

Ruby Romero Escamilla
Abbie Roos
Leora Rosembaum
Kasen Ross
Ailia Rubalcava
Diego Ruiz
Luis Ruiz Guillen
Daijana Rush

Jyrecous Rush
Nathaniel Rush
Kamara Sakho
Jailin Sanders-Mosby
Law Say
Talieya Schappaugh
Lakelynn Schiffke
Matthew Schriner-Hall

Sophomores Take The *Stage*

What is something new that you have tried **HERE?**

"Baseball is something new I have done. It's been one of my best experiences at Rock Island High School."
Tyler Black

"I joined track to better myself and keep my body in shape for my other sports."
AJ Doss

"This year, I took harder/ honors classes to challenge myself more."
Aoci Bernard

"Playing Varsity Softball with older girls. It makes me a better person and player."
Taylor Pannell

Hailee Schwab
Delia Schwartz
Emma Scott
Jaquai Scott
Nick Seabolt
Josephine Seams
Enock Sehinda
Chase Sexton

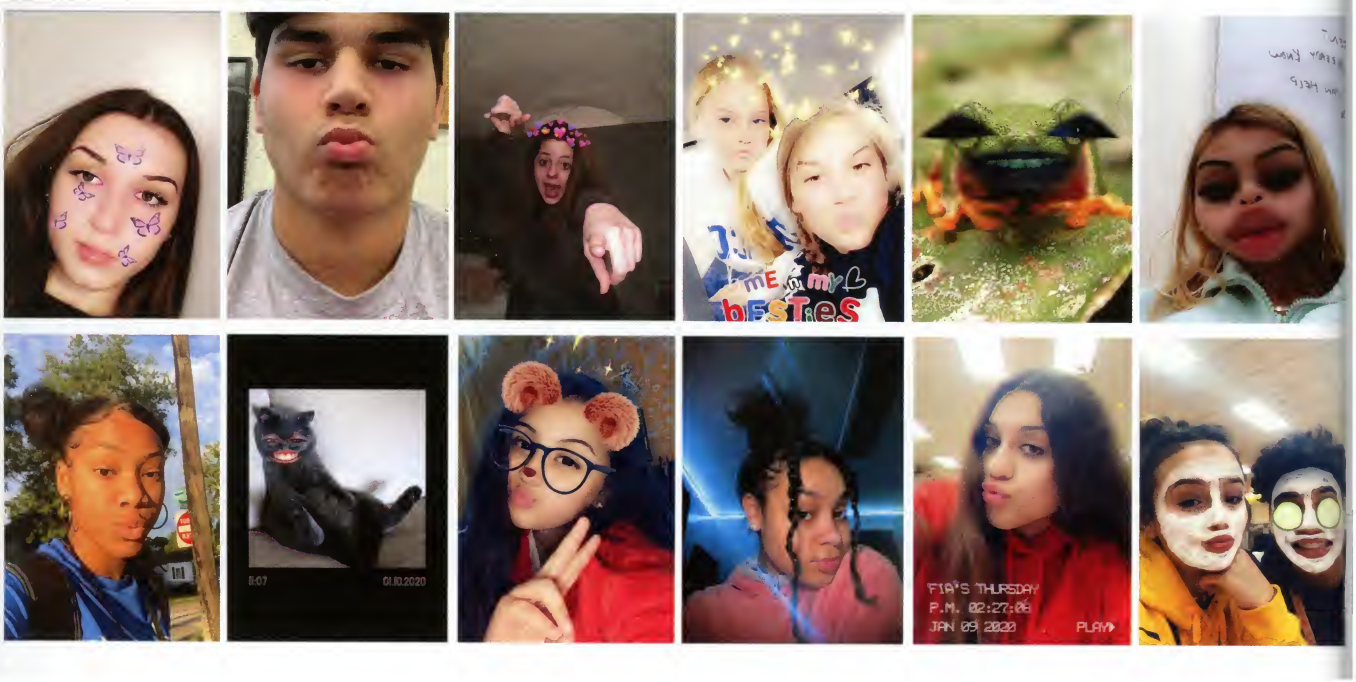
Htoo Shee
Ku Shee
Mikhaila Sherrard
Olivia Sholl
Chloe Shomo
Trista Shoop-Lowry
Drake Shuck
Isabel Sierra

Sophia Sigler
Briar Singleton
Owen Skinner
Caleb Smith
Dominic Solis
Aniyah Steele
Ma'Kayla Steele
Halana Stephenson

Brionjanique Stewart
Daniel Stiles
Raymonde Stinde
Tazia Stoner-Harris
Hunter Straw-Lucas
Jacob Stribling
Corey Strong
Andrew Sullivan

FILTERING SOPHOMORE YEAR

Sophomores show off their favorite Snapchat and Instragram filters



What is the biggest challenge you have taken on **HERE?**

"My biggest challenge would have to be my AP US History class. Yes, it has its perks, but it's extremely tiring."
Emma Richey

"The biggest challenge I've taken on at Rocky would be the choice to take AP classes."
Dylan Johnson

"The biggest challenge I've taken on at Rocky is finding my role as a peer, a teammate, and student. It's all about forward progression and seeing your growth and growth in others."
Jay Richardson

"My biggest challenge has been finding myself. This school is very diverse, and sometimes you can get lost in that. Rocky is so full of opportunities and people that I wouldn't want to make memories anywhere else."
Rosadalia Rocillo

Shadrack Sumaili
Benjamin Sweborg
Gabriella Taber
Kiley Tallman
Ash Tarkington
Zaryah Tate
Nakiyah Taylor
Angel Teague

Jameer Teague
Cung Thang
Shee Thaw
Antonio Thomas
Steven Thomas
Chase Thompson
Hannah Thompson
Kenneth Thompson

Lexi Thompson
Christopher Thrap
GayKu Thu
Shamarr Tolbert
Alejandro Torres
Kayliana Trahan
Juan Troche
Britani Trujillo

Mwamini Tuombe
Roland Ullrick
Jayla Upton
Natalie VanCoillie
Addison VandeWalle
Luke VanDeWalle
Zachery Vantiger
Tona'e Vaughn

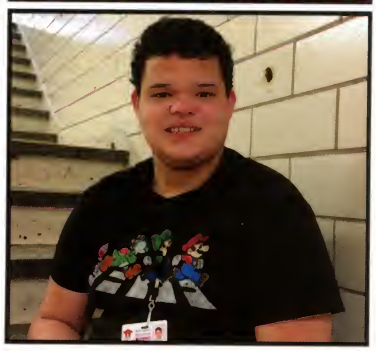
This is How We BOWL

Ten pins stand at the end of the 60 foot lane. Drew DeMarlie uses all of his might to roll the ball. Suddenly, an eruption of cheers fills the room as all ten pins tumble down. Another strike is added to DeMarlie's score. With these last few winning points, he qualifies to participate with another Rock Island High School student, Shawn Harrison, at the Special Olympics Bowling State Tournament.

DeMarlie is only 15 years old, and has been playing sports with the Special Olympics teams since he was in eighth grade at Washington Junior High School. His involvement with Bowling, Sled Hockey, Baseball, and Basketball has provided him with many wins and plenty of memories. DeMarlie said his favorite memory has been, "Getting lots of strikes." While Bowling, his highest score has been 114 points in a single game.

Shawn Harrison, 15 years old, is experiencing the Special Olympics Bowling Team for the first time. Although he is a first year bowler, Harrison is also heading to Peoria with DeMarlie to compete at the State Tournament. Harrison said his favorite part of being a part of the team has been "winning." His biggest struggle is rolling the ball into the gutter and finds himself feeling, "sort of [nervous]," explained Harrison about losing.

The two bowlers will be competing in Peoria on December 7th, and hope many of their friends will attend the game to support them while they represent the Rocks with pride!



What do you like about learning a language

HERE?

"I like learning about another culture and seeing what their lives are like."
Hanna Hultgren

"Since I'm already bilingual, I didn't really want to take another language. However, one of the languages that my mom is fluent in is French, so I thought, why not? And I just took it, and it's fun!"
Brigitte Pendeza

"I like learning another language like German because I like to think how it's translated, and the different sounds and pronunciations."
Riley Potter

"It opens the opportunity to communicate with more people in my future."
Alaina Muller

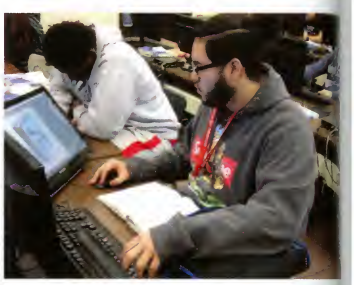
Fernando Vazquez
Angie Velasco
Antonio Velazquez Gregory
Kaleb Vellocido
Anna Vermeire
Jack Veronda
Najah Vesey
Javier Villarreal

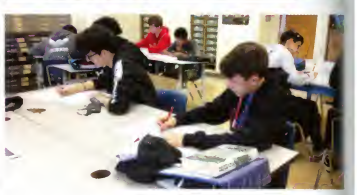
Mickenzie Wakeland
Madison Walker
Tori Walker
Scott Wangler
Savage Wates
Emily Watson
Namonea Watson
James Webb

Jaylynn Weistart
Michael Wells
Mekayla Welsh
Zane White-Edgington
Anthony Whited
Jordan Whittington
Cori Williams
Terrance Williams

Drake Williamson
Daisha Willis
Evan Willis
Nyota Wilondja
Hsi Win
Nywe Win
Courtney Wixom
Tyler Wolf

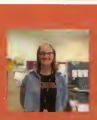
ARTISTIC Sophomores





What is your favorite place **HERE** at Rocky?

"The chem lab because I love science and hands-on activities, and Mrs. Vroman constructs the best labs."
Phoebe Fuller



"My favorite place at Rocky is the soccer field because it's a place where I can express who I am, and the girls on the team are amazing."
Ywa Hay Paw

"My favorite place is the soccer field because I have a lot of fun memories there. From my favorite moments to some of the best wins Rocky girls soccer has gotten, I'll never forget the feeling of being so proud of myself playing soccer for RI and to have such an awesome team to play with."
Soe Paw

"The Auditorium is my favorite place at Rocky because it is so grand, and the Musical and Choir Concerts are preformed in the Auditorium, which I love to do!"
Georgi Feigley

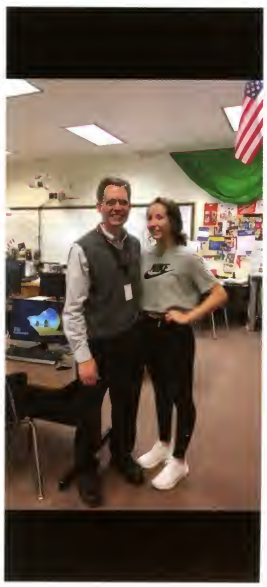
Jaiden Womack
Dayvon Woods
Mar'Cha Woodson
James Wulgaert
Fatuma Yondo
Aaron York
Adrian Zetina

Families at the ROCK

"It's nice a lot of my teachers already know me because my mom works here. Plus, she assists me to get help from other teachers when needed."

Jacob Stribling & Mrs. Stribling RIHS Nursing Teacher

"My dad does a good job giving me space, but it's nice to know he's there if I need anything."



Grace Gustafson & Mr. Gustafson RIHS Art Teacher

HERE

is where you start your life as a Rock. You enter Rocky for the first time, and make your way to third floor, the home of the Freshman Academy. You take the usual freshman courses- English 9, World Studies, Biology, and Math. You might acclimate yourself to the Rock through Study Club. While you may have felt like this place is huge and unfamiliar at the start of the year, after a quarter or so, the hallways seem easier to navigate. You find shortcuts to your classes, learn how to check your grades, and begin to feel like Rocky is not so intimidating after all. You find your home on the court, on the field, and on the stage. You befriend upperclassmen, as well as your old cross town rivals. While you have great memories from Edison and Washington, your focus is now on the future, and what you can do together, as Rocks. Here, you are home.

What do you wish someone told you before coming **HERE?**

"How much more you had to pay attention. It's not like junior high at all."
Alexandria Lipe

"Learn who your real friends are."
McKenzie Houston

"Advice I wish I would have known going into high school would be that it's not as scary as you think, and there's a lot of people around you to help out."
Kaiya McKinley

"I wish I would have gotten told that learning is more valuable than grades because grades aren't an accurate reflection of my educational progress."
Anna Wright

Sura Abdulmunem
Connor Adner
Aquarius Aitken
Jesus Alba
Mireya Aleman
Mauriana Almore
Danycia Altemus
Zoe Alturas
Jasmin Alva-Perez
Ashton Anderson
Dameon Anderson
Davian Anderson
Julian Anderson
Mariah Anderson
Maryionce Anderson
Peyton Anderson
Logan Arnold
Payton Aschemann
Daxon Ashpaugh
Aimerance Askeji
Cameron Atkinson
Elise Aunan
Edward Awour Kur
Mitamba Babocha
Naabwe Babocha
Braeden Baker
Tyler Barbee
Anjilika Barikzay
Cade Barnes
Marissa Barnum
Erriea Bea
Nevaeh Bellamy

Senior Siblings

Larissa and Natalie Pothoven

"I like having a senior sibling because Larissa can recommend extracurricular activities to be involved in. We have fun participating in Marching Band, German Club, and Drama Club together. I can also get feedback on teachers and classes in the school."
- Natalie Pothoven

Ashley and Kaylee Johnson

"Having a senior sibling is weird because I have multiple people that know me as I walk by them in the hall, but I have no idea who they are."
- Kaylee Johnson

Alex and Jacob Kern

"Having a senior sibling is helpful, at times, because Alex has already had experience going through classes that I'm taking now."
- Jacob Kern

Anna and Jude Rowell

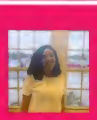
"It is pretty nice having a senior sibling because Anna can give me advice if I need anything."
- Jude Rowell

"Geometry. All the different terms, proofs, definitions... then remembering what they all mean."
Abby Mills

"The most challenging class is Algebra I because it went more in-depth to stuff you already learned in 7th grade."
JaQuez Smith

"World studies. Sometimes I don't understand the stuff."
Kaden Witt

"Definitely Math. I was good at it until they added the alphabet."
Makalia Crawford



What is your most challenging class **HERE?**

Ethan Bender
Jace Bennett
Ethan Bergheger
Xavier Berry
Noah Bird
Loiyan Blamah-Jackson
Airiyawna Blaser
James Blew
Jayden Bomelyn
Emilee Borkhardt
Jordan Bowling
Jake Brandt
Alysa Braud
Quonterrion Brooks
Maliyah Brose
Nicolas Brown
Michael Brummit
Zenniphyr Bullock
Quinci Bumgarner
Misa Byobe
Braylin Calhoun
Addison Campbell
Shaelynn Campbell
Aniae Carapia
MaKylie Carey
Lexie Carothers
Denise Carr
Alexis Carroll
Cesar Casco
Angel Castaneda
Saul Castaneda
Maricela Churchill

Overachieving Underclassmen

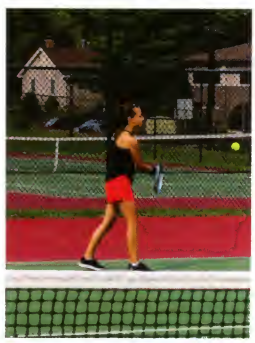
Freshmen on Varsity

Jake Brandt has been playing soccer for 10 years and plays center midfielder.

Elise Aunan has continued her tennis career at the Rock, where she was named to the Varsity Team as a freshman.

Bailey Hecker has been swimming for 7 years and swims the 50 free and the 100 back.

Maricela Churchill has been playing volleyball for 3 years and plays the setter position.

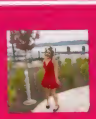


Lucas Rettig has been swimming for 7 years and swims the 200 Individual Medley.

What is it like going to school with your old rivals **HERE?**

"Adjusting to it was easy. People really came together as time went on, and most people became friends."
Kyleigh Hughes

"It's good. It doesn't feel any different than when we didn't go to school with them. Now that we go to school with them, we get along."
Quonterrion Brooks



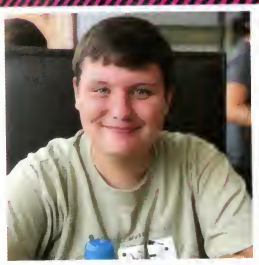
"I like it. I mean, they're all my old friends, and we do argue, but overall, it's nice seeing them and playing with them."
Qunci Bumgarner

"I'm really happpy to be coming to school with them and meeting all the new people from the other school."
Stevie Dempsey

Sky Ciesielczyk
Alexia Clark
Miranda Clark
Kiesel Clay
Chanel Colvin
Branden Colvin Jr
Viviana Contreras-Villagomez
Madison Cook
Matthew Cook
Thomas Cook
Chloe Cooper
Ocean Cooper
Aniya Cotton
Navarion Counts
Derion Craig
Myracle Craig
Makalia Crawford
Edie Crayne
Jaysha Cribb
Jenae Cross-Carruthers
Carter Cupp
Nhi Dang
Law Dee
Evan DeFauw
Mariela DeMeyer
Stevie Dempsey
Alicia Dennison
Lilyana DeRudder
Brie Dickinson
Ava Dietz
Stephen Dillender
Nevaeh Dore

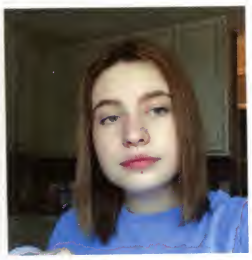
By Senior Year

"...I hope to be more positive, involved, and able to sustain my grade average."
- Molly Nesseler



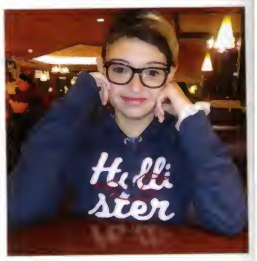
"...I hope I have found people I can count on and I know will support me. I hope I have taken all the chances and opportunities possible, and I hope I have decided on what to do for a living."
- Emilee Borkhardt

"...I want to find my real friend group and get all of my credits in."
- Zenniphyr Bullock



"... I want to be able to beat Dark Souls and Dark Souls Ring of Fire."
- Connor Adner

"...I want to be able to run a 50 second 400 meter dash."
- Ben Oliver

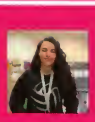


"I was most scared of the seniors and all of the upperclassmen, in general."
Leya Ntiebuwayo

"I was most scared of how hard the classes were going to be, and if I was going to be able to keep up."
Kaylee Plohr

"I was nervous about how our homework was now 30%, and if you don't get it done, it can affect you a lot."
Lily DeRudder

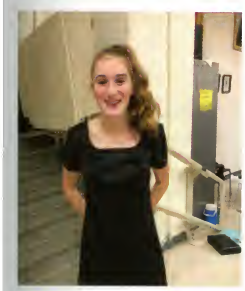
"I was the most scared of trying to figure out my classes and schedule, but it was a lot easier than I thought."
Alysa Braud

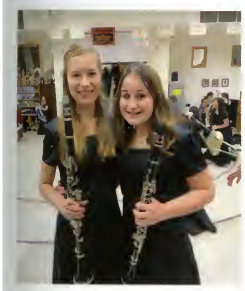


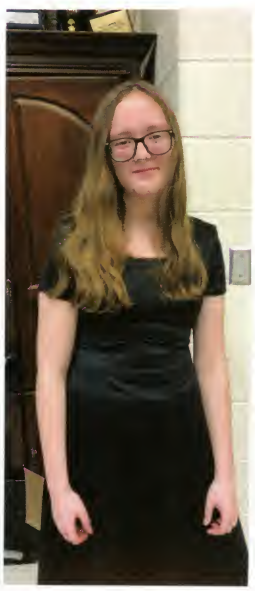
What were you most nervous about coming **HERE?**

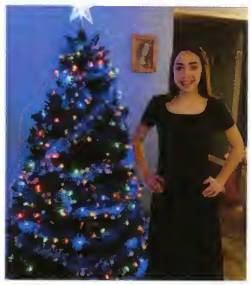
Brian Dowell
Kameryn Duarte
Bridget Duncan
Donathian Ebengo
Happiness Elias
Vyizigiro Emelina
Morgan Engholm
Ireona Euring
Caitlin Eves
Jullian Fabian
Aidan Fiers
Norah Finley
Kendrick Freeman
Timothy Fulscher
Lauren Gant
Diana Garcia
Edmund Garcia
Tatum Garrett
Caden Garrison
Tatiana Garza
Eh Gay
Kameron Gay
Kershaun Gay
Nay Gay
Nekeyhl Gay
Tevin Gay
Mizero Gerald
For Give
Deaken Golz
Nathaniel Gottcent
Shanyah Graham
Madison Greenwood

Freshmen JAZZ It Up









What do you want to accomplish during your 9th Grade year **HERE?**

"Get a good GPA."
Sienna Mikaio

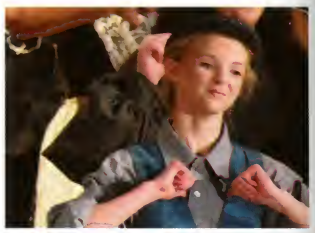
"As a 9th grader, I would like to be a person that can lead others and be a good companion."
Nelie Ninahazwe

"I want to make the sophomore baseball team."
Jason Rockhold

"I would like to improve in math and try my best to meet my goals that I set."
Anna Wright

Colin Gulick
Vaida Gunasheva
Corbin Gustafson
Connie Gutierrez
Kyle Guy
Yasmine Hafdi
Landon Hamilton
Nina Hamilton
Ella Hansen
Lucas Hansen
Taleigha Hansen
Andrew Harker
Kiley Harrell
Ashlyn Hartman
Ali Hatem
Abigail Hauskins
Riley Hawotte
DeMarco Hearn
Eviah Hearn
Bailey Hecker
Lynzie Heggen
Kira Hemphill
Sebastian Hemphill
Aidan Henderson
Jasmine Henderson
Jennifer Henderson
Nihyeva Henderson
Nathan Hendrickx
Anthony Hereford-Warren
Jared Hernandez
Deun Hickman
Elayisha Hinton

Freshmen ON Stage



"Honestly, everything. High school is just a blast. But my all-time favorite would have to be the clubs."
Madi Maxey

"Just being in a new environment and learning new things. The way high school functions is just way better than junior high."
Ashton Unley

"I think my favorite aspect of being a freshman is the new and fresh atmosphere, with new and old faces, creating new relationships, obtaining new responsibilities, and overall, feeling like you have more control of your future."
Ayen Malual

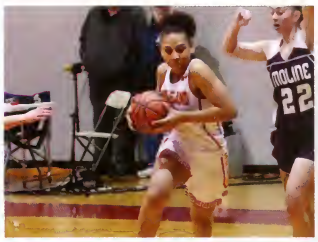
"My favorite aspect of 9th grade is probably meeting new people and exploring different subjects. Rocky has classes I never thought I'd want to take, so I'm glad it's kind of opened up new doors, in a way."
Jayden Bomelyn

What has been your favorite aspect of your 9th Grade Year **HERE?**

Andrea Hodonou
Flora Holcomb
Ian Holcomb
Spencer Holliday
Frank Holmes
Brianna Hoss
Zachary Hoss
McKenzie Houston
Malachi Howard-Kraus
Baw Htoo
Hay Htoo
New Year Htoo
November Htoo
Paw Htoo
Kyleigh Hughes
Hyoo Ivy
Lamarian Jackson
Malachi Jackson
Dylan James
Ta'Miah Jamison
Niklaus Janssen
Emma Jasper
Niyitunga Jeanvier
Alyce Jett Ryan
Kaylee Johnson
Kile Johnson
Sherrick Johnson
William Johnson
Lloyd Jones
Riley Jones
Yaniveon Jones
Jaidyn Karzin

FRESHMEN MOVE UP

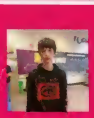
A few of Rocky's freshmen Lady Rocks moved up to play on the Sophomore Lady Rocks Basketball Team this year.



What is your favorite lunch **HERE?**

"My favorite lunch is either the spicy chicken salad or maybe the little mini chicken nuggets. But in the same case, I like the slushies and everything else in the snack line. When I don't eat an actual lunch, I get something from the snack line."
Erriea Bea

"It would have to be between the Subway line and the burger/chicken line, especially when there are fries."
Sentia Nishimwe



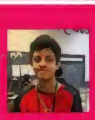
"Taco in a bag."
Mathew Olderog

"Papa John's Pizza-Sausage."
Makalia Crawford

Kaiden Karzin
Mary Keen
Noah Keever
Monica Kelly
Jacob Kern
Di Khu
Gilbert Kibingila
Isabella King
Andrew Kirby
Nyota Kisubi
Drake Klundt
Klae Kpor
Landin Krakliow
Kaw La
Aiyanna Lacey
Isaiah Lambert-Lannen
Gabriel Lavino
Jaydah Lee
Nathan Lee
Soe Ler
Ntiebuwayo Leya
Niyubuntu Lionel
Alexandria Lipe
Carlos Lizano
Xavier Lolli
Jazmin Lopez
Juanita Lopez
Rafael Lopez
Marisa Lopez Cabada
Bryce Lowry
Leah Lundberg
Savannah Lundquist

FRESHMEN *in* ORCHESTRA

"The Freshman Soccer Team because I wanted to be a part of something at Rocky."
Jared Hernandez



"I am glad that I joined Drumline because I really love drumming, and I enjoy hanging out with the rest of the battery and the instructors."
Natalie Pothoven

"Volleyball, because it's my favorite sport and our volleyball family is good."
Quinci Bumgarner

"Student Council because it's cool to plan all the school events."
Camryn Milefchik

What group are you glad you joined **HERE?**

Evan Lyon
Madelyn Maidak
Ayen Malual
Niang Man
Kennedy Maombi
Hector Marceleno-Robles
Steven Marquez
Tavian Marshall
Jenavieve Martel
Dylan Martin
Jai'Mari Martin
Alexia Martinez
Javonae Martinson
Juliana Mata
Kyle Mata
Kyle Matherly
Keller Mathews
Arianna Matthews
Madalynn Maxey
Alexis McClay
Abie McCrady
David McDonald
Joshua McDowell
Israel McGowan
Kaiya McKinley
Noah McMeekan
Mariyah McQueen
Angeliq Medrano
Mackenzie Meirhaeghe
Ricardo Mendoza
Julissa Mendoza-Perez
Montzerrat Meza-Pena

Freshmen of the Month!

Being Freshman of the Month is no easy feat, so here is a shout out to congratulate those who have achieved this goal.

What was the hardest challenge to overcome **HERE?**

"Adjusting to how big the school is. With only 4 minutes to get from 3rd floor to 1st, it can be challenging to make it on time with all the students."
Luke Hansen

"I had to learn to adapt from standard based grading to actual letter grades. Also, having the teachers expect more out of students when in junior high teachers are more lenient."
Kyleigh Hughes

"The stairs."
Sienna Makaio

"Making friends isn't always easy, but I just remember to find people who like me for my outgoing personality and to always be myself."
Camryn Milefchik

Navaeh Middlebrook
Sienna Mikaio
Camryn Milefchik
Gavin Miller
Kassandra Miller
LaJaden Miller
Macey Miller
Abby Mills
Babocha Mitamba
Olivia Mitchell
Shyaunna Mitchell
Jayden Mlekush
Zayne Mlekush
Kaden Moeding
Hser Moo
Dustin Moreno
Jaron Morris
Logan Morris
Markell Morrison
Mariah Mowery
Jason Mueck
Jordan Murray
Emily Myers
Nahriya Myers
Babocha Naabwe
Cooper Nelson
Nyla Nelson
Derrius Nephew
Molly Nesseler
Aaron Nettles
Nelie Ninahazwe
Sentia Nishimwe

Here, Freshmen Sing

"The teacher who helped me the most would be Herr Eli because he answers questions and comes up with fun ways to learn German. He is very helpful."
Natalie Pothoven

"The teacher who helped me the most would be Mr. Rogers because he has shown me my worth and how to be confident."
Kyleigh Hughes

"The teacher who helped me the most would be Mr. Martel."
Mariah Mowery

"The teacher who helped me the most would be Mrs. Mertel."
John Rohwer

What teacher has helped you the most **HERE?**

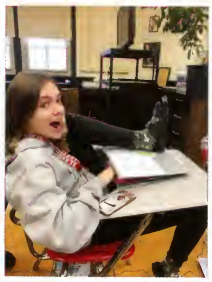
Aline Niyogusenga
Samuel Niyonkuru
Ventre Norwood
Suzana Nyasa
Mathew Olderog
Benjamin Oliver
Alejandro Pantoja
Cristee Paw
Hsa Klee Paw
Landen Paxston Sanders
Nolan Pence
Daysia Peniston
Jaliyah Pennington
Butch Pepper
Maria Perez
Jannet Perez-Vazquez
Shabani Petro
Grace Phares
Fernando Pizano
Kaylee Plohr
Natalie Pothoven
Brandon Poulos
Charlea Pressly
Nee Pwe
Gavin Quinones
Angel Ralston
Cencer Ramirez
Maria Rangel
Juliauna Raymond
Porscha Reed
Owen Reid
Brayden Reinhardt

VSCO FRESHMEN

Rocky freshmen girls describe their favorite VSCO accessories.

EDIE CRAYNE

"Scrunchies are my favorite because you can wear them in your hair and on your wrist."



EMMA JASPER

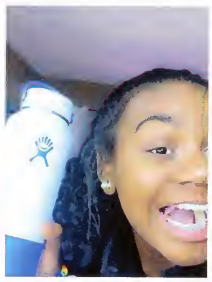
"I love my Birkenstocks because they're comfy and really easy to put on."

CAMRYN MILEFCHIK

"My favorite is my Hydroflask because I like putting my stickers on it, and it's my favorite color."

HALIE VIERNOW

"It's a really good water bottle that can hold literally any drink you want, hot or cold, and there's different sizes and colors to choose from. You can take it really anywhere you want and it does keep your drink either hot or cold all day long."

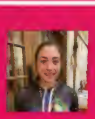


NINA HAMILTON

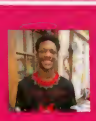
"I would have to say my Hydroflask, for sure. It comes in handy all the time when I'm thirsty, and I carry it around everywhere I go."

What is your favorite memory **HERE?**

"Meeting new people because I made lots of new friends."
Edie Crayne



"My favorite memory was joining Color Guard and making new friends and memories in it."
Abie McCrady



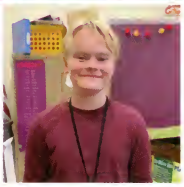
"Football on Friday nights."
DesMond Woodson

"The Homecoming assembly because we were all chilling."
Mizero Gerald

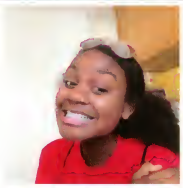
Lucas Rettig
Kayla Rice
Shawntel Richardson
Tristian Richardson-Cole
Isaiah Richey
Johary Rivera-Martinez
Danee' Robinson
Nevaeh Robinson Cunningham
Jason Rockhold
Nehemiah Rodriguez
Rajet Rodriguez
Isabelle Roelens
Daivari Rogers
John Rohwer
Patience Rose
Madison Rosenthal
Felix Ross-Cespedes
Lucas Rossi
Jude Rowell
Mykia Rudolph
Evan Ruiz
Curtis Ryan
Aneesa Saldivar
Miranda Salyers
Nathan Schinckel
Anthony Schultz
Connor Schweickhardt
Joshua Scott
Kyle Scott
Xavier Seibel
Latesa Selman
Anette Serrato-Rivera

EXCITING MOMENTS OF 9TH GRADE

"Sports and getting involved all around because you get to meet new people and hang with friends while enjoying the games."
- Mariyah McQueen



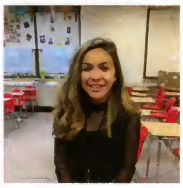
"Definitely all of the opportunities and activities here."
- Julian Anderson



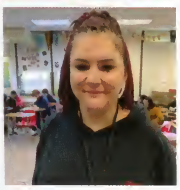
"Sports because you get to support our school team and dress up in the cool themes with your friends."
- Nina Hamilton

"Sports because it makes it feel like you have another family."
- Kayla Rice

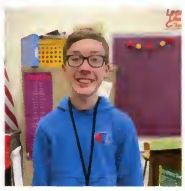
"Playing sports because it's fun and you're able to earn scholarships and gain new friends."
- Erriea Bea



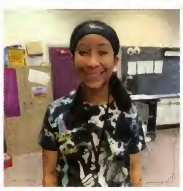
"Going to games because you get to hang with your friends and the energy is always high."
- Tatiana Garza



"Getting to meet new people in different classes because it's fun."
- Makenzy Spires



"Going to games or playing sports, because you meet new people and hang with friends."
- Keller Mathews



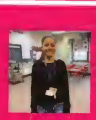
"Meeting new people and having different teachers because it's always nice meeting new people."
- Tiarra Winters Bland

"My favorite memory of Freshman year has been hanging out with friends at marching band competitions. It is so much fun to see the progress of our show and just relax with others after a great run."
Natalie Pothoven

"Going to BOA and Marching Band at the Lucas Oil Stadium."
Paige Boenitz

"When we went to Indianapolis for Marching Band and BOA."
Emilee Borkhardt

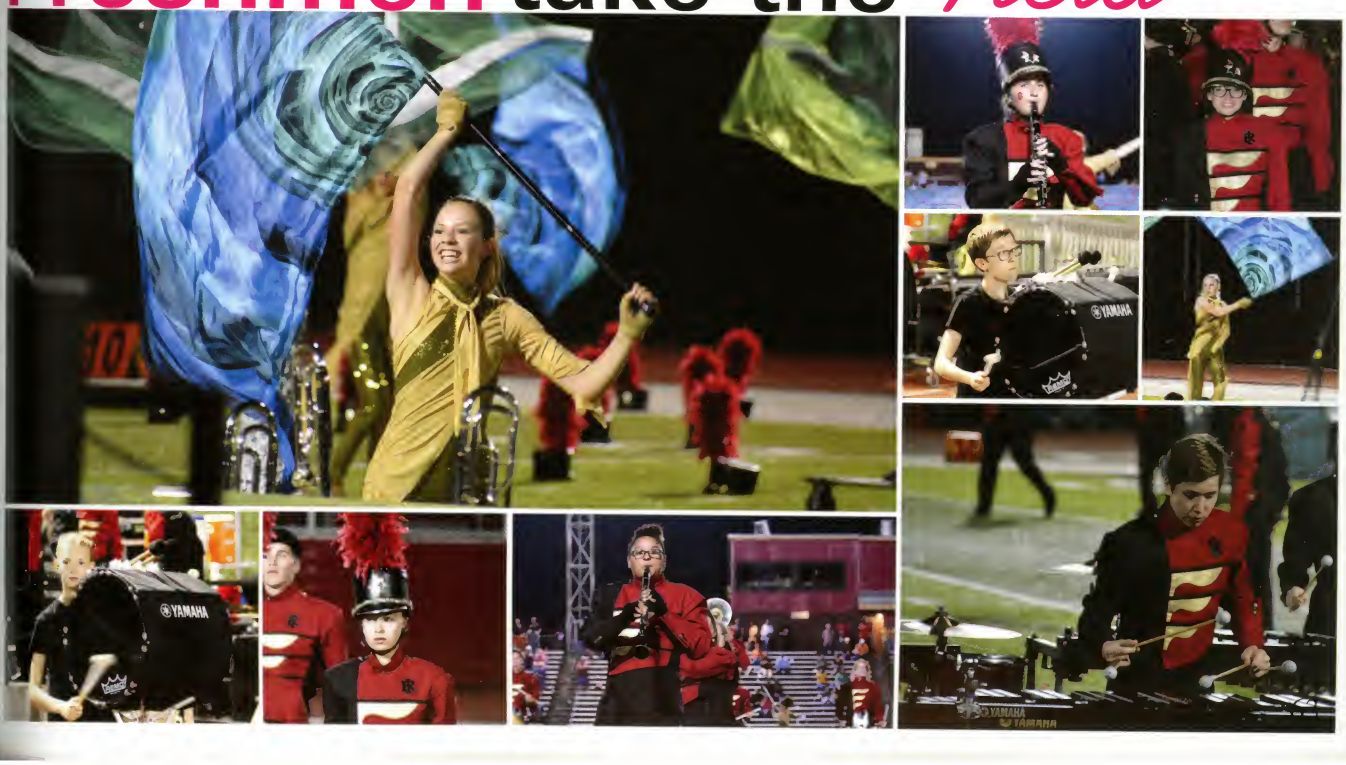
"My favorite memory was being able to join iJAG and hanging out with friends."
Aquarius Aitken



What was your favorite memory **HERE** during your 9th Grade Year?

Jaquez Smith
Natalee Smith
Quentin Smith
Xavier Smith
Ethan Smithson
Jennah Smock
Aiden Snyder
Christ Soe
Eh Soe
Moo Soe
Mu Soe
MaKenzy Spires
Abagail Stigers
Ava Stonehouse
Morghan Stoneking
Emma Stout
Seth Strandberg
MadisonBlu Stropes
K'mwee Su
Kadon Svec
Jesse Swisher
Darviae Tate
Shar Taw
Eden Taylor
Madison Taylor
Makenzie Terry
Tluang Thang
Asia Thomas
Evan Thompson
Ramon Torres
Kierian Trahan
Cesar Trejo

Freshmen take the *Field*

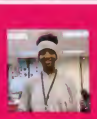


What is your best advice for future freshmen **HERE?**

"Make sure you always study for your tests or quizzes. Your tests and quizzes are worth 70% of your overall grade, so if you fail, it could really hurt your grade. It's not like middle school, where you don't need to try that much, and it won't hurt your grade. But in high school, if you don't try, it will hurt your grade."
Ava Dietz

"Don't expect to be friends with the same people you were with in middle school."
Juliauna Raymond

"If you're a freshman, keep your circle small, and just stick to yourself to avoid the drama."
Kira Hemphill



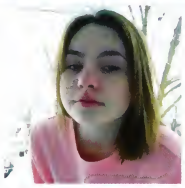
"Don't be scared."
Marriana Rent

Ashton Unley
Godelive Uwezo
Alijah Vallejo
Samuel Valverde
Justin VanRycke
Isabel Varela
Cristian Velasco
Fred Venable
Annuarite Venansia
Halie Viernow
Avery Voigt
Haley Waffle
Khu Wah
Andrew Walker
Robert Walter
Caleb Wangler
Tamajai Wells
Kyle Westerfield
Da'Niveona White
Olivia Wiese
Aaron Williams
Ashanti Williams
John Williamson
Triston Willoughby
Xavyor Winter
Tiarra Winters Bland
Kaden Witt
Amiyah Woods
DesMond Woodson
Liam Wren
Annastasia Wright
Kimora Wright

A+ in Daydreaming

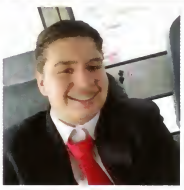
[Freshmen explain what classes they wish they could take at Rock Island High School.

"ASL- American Sign Language."
Mahiela Hewitt



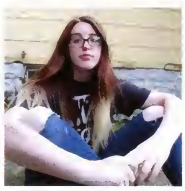
"How to communicate better because lots of people don't really know how to communicate."
Tatum Garrett

"A class just about the history of sports."
Keller Mathews



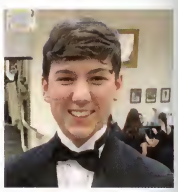
"Ballroom dancing."
Carter Cupp

"I would take movie directing because it's really fun and would be interesting."
Molly Nesseler



"We could have fake electronic wings and learn how to fly."
Aline Niyogusenga

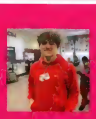
"Culinary arts. My plan is to go to culinary school after high school, and I'd love to take an early class for it."
Evan Lyon



"The community you have with your teammates is the best. I think at Rocky, we keep it fun, but still work hard."
Ethan Smithson

"The best thing about playing a sport would probably be the bonding and coming together as a team, and winning or losing together as a team."
Mariyah McQueen

"The best part of playing a sport here at Rocky is winning."
Brayden Reinhardt

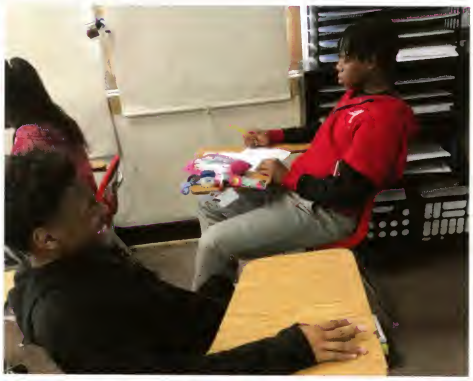


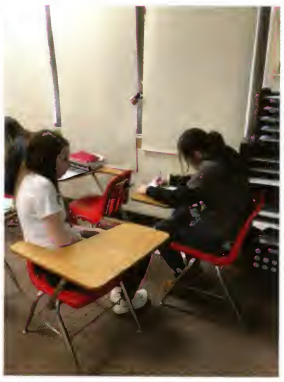
"The best part of playing a sport here is you have a second family. Everyone is together, and it gives you opportunities to create relationships."
Kaylee Plohr

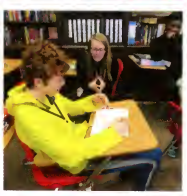
What is it like to play sports **HERE?**

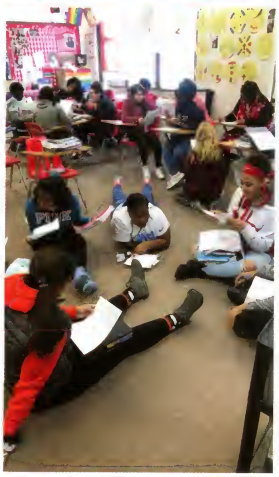
Johari Yusuf
Maxwell Zahner
Joshua Zetina
Faith Zulu

FRESHMEN IN AVID









HERE

at Rocky, you've come to teach. Perhaps it's your first classroom, office, or even your first job. Maybe you transferred here, or have taken on a new role as an educator here. Regardless of where you are in your career, you do know why you are here. You want to help. You want to inspire. You want to be there for someone who needs you. You also want to teach. You know your subject matter and how to create lessons, but ultimately, you know that your role here goes beyond what is in a textbook or the notes you make students take. You hope what you do here inspires the next generation to challenge themselves, to believe in themselves, and most of all, to become better versions of themselves. Your classroom, the halls, maybe your office is where this all starts, but certainly not where your reach ends.

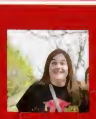
ROCKS
ROCKS

PEDAL PUB

What is your favorite memory of teaching **HERE?**

"When I first started teaching at Rocky, I left my room to make some copies, and left my room unlocked, and when I returned, there was a note on the door that said I was in violation of the teacher handbook, and that I had to see the principal ASAP. While talking to another teacher about it, I found out that they had also received a similar note, so we decided to go apologize together. While doing this, we found out one of the deans pranked us, and we both fell for it."
Scott Dyer

"It would either be chaperoning the senior trip to Great America with Mr. Trask. We had a great time riding roller coasters with the students. Or, the time that I put Ms. Miers' car up on blocks in the parking lot."
Michael Melody



"I would have to say when I took my AP class to Hannibal, Missouri for a field trip in May of 2018. We had a blast walking through the streets of Hannibal, observing all of the various buildings and museums dedicated to Mark Twain and his novels. We also hiked up the 244 steps to the Mark Twain Lighthouse and saw an amazing view of the town and of the Mississippi River. A good time was had by all." **Michelle Greenwood**

"I don't have a favorite memory as a teacher per se. My most enjoyable moments as a teacher are when I receive correspondence from former students thanking me for my efforts. Although the in-between and far between, these interactions make the job worthwhile, as I feel that I make a positive difference in the lives of some of my students."
Jeffry Duster

Aaron Buggs

Rudy Almanza

Lori Alvarez

Julie Arnold

Cassie Attebery

Lawrence Behnke

Emily Bohling

Mark Bollaert

Craig Allison

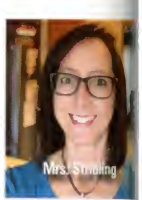
Andy Campbell

Teodora Castaneda

Jon Catterton

A___ B___ C___

Academic Bitmoji Creations



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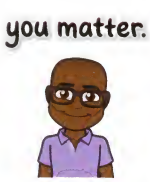

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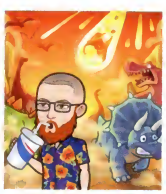


E.

F.

G.

H.

"Phones have changed. When I was in school, I had a phone, but I didn't use it. Everyone wore really baggy clothes. We had a physical school newspaper that students can pick up from the cafeteria. For lunch, we would eat Godfathers pizza and Tacobell. The entrance looks nicer today."
Mr. Kennelly

"The building has changed. We didn't have carpet or air conditioning when I was here. Also, the environment has changed. Students rely so much on technology and social media now. We didn't even have cell phones, so that is a big difference."
Mrs. Harms

"The school day is longer now. We only had 6 periods, and were out by 3:00. We had open campus for lunch. There were no credit recovery classes. We had no carpet, and the Circle Drive entrance was completely different. We used to have a lot more students at sporting events than we do now."
Mr. Melody

"When I was a freshman, I went to East campus just for 9th grade. Not until I was a junior did freshmen come to the high school. We went to school from 8 to 2:30. We only had 6 classes. Driver's Ed offices and Deans were where the Athletic/Attendance Office is. The parking lot had security to let you in and out. We had 5 minutes passing. The library was 'sunken', so you had to walk down stairs into the library. The driver's ed rooms were gymnastics rooms. The Dean's Office was the wrestling room. The fitness center was auto body classes. We didn't have a girls' soccer or volleyball team."
Mrs. Thompson

What has changed since you went **HERE?**

Jennifer Chewning

Julie Churchill

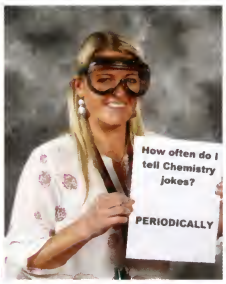
Cathy Cooley

Tim Corwin

Carmen Woods

Sue Crowder

Erin Dempsey-Rohr



Katie Dennis

Haley Denton

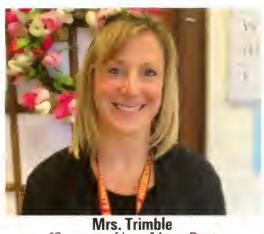
Keith Dunker

Christina Dyer

Scott Dyer

SONGS OF OUR CHILDHOOD

Mr. Williams
"Thriller"
by Michael Jackson
"I remember growing up in the West end, and a lot of times, if we saw like a dance being done on Sould Train or a music video, all the kids would be in the street doing the dance, so the "Thriller" dance was the one everyone knew in the neighborhood."

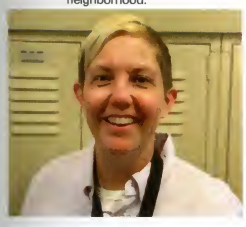


Mrs. Trimble
"Seasons of Love" from Rent
"I chose this song for 2 reasons- 1st was because in high school, I actually had a solo from that song in my show choir, but secondly, because the meaning of that song is about how you should measure your life, and I interpret the song to mean you should measure your life by the memories you have, and the people you spend it with."

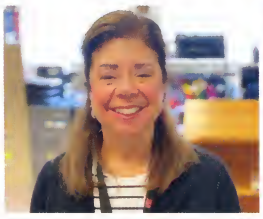
Mrs. Davis
"I'm Ready"
by Tevin Campbell
"I chose that song because that was a time in my life when I was transitioning into being a teenager. Everything was important to me. Tevin Campbell was my favorite artist then and I was ready to conquer the world."

Mr. Mertel
"American Idiot"
by Green Day
"It was a popular song when I was in junior high, 7th or 8th grade, but also, I was starting to learn politics and things, so it mentions unrest and unhappiness with the government at the time."

Mrs. Evanchyk
"Get Down Tonight"
by KC & The Sunshine Band
"I like that song because it has a good beat and it is easy to dance to."



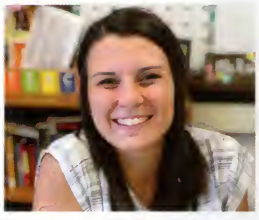
Ms. Johnson
"It Was a Good Day"
by Ice Cube
"It has a great beat, the lyrics are very positive, and I had a crush on Ice Cube."



Mrs. Bouchareb
"Anta Oumri
(You Are My Life)"
by Oum Kaltoum
"I like the lyrics of the song. It's a poem. I like the poet and the composer who wrote it."

Ms. Miers
"MMMBop"
by Hanson
"It was by my best friend's and my favorite band. This song reminds me of my childhood."

Mr. Bollaert
"Come As You Are"
by Nirvana
"I liked the song. It was a very popular song when I was 15."



Mrs. Resch
"Say My Name"
by Destiny's Child
"It came out when I was like 13. You know all kids get obsessed with music and watch the music video over and over again, until you know the words and all the dance moves. And, it's Destiny's Child. It's amazing all the way around."

Who is your teacher BFF **HERE?**

"My teacher best friend is Connie Hayek. She is the most wonderful, supportive, encouraging person anyone could hope to be friends with. We have taught together for 18 years, and I can't imagine what my life, especially at RIHS, would be like without her."
Mrs. Greenwood

"I would have to say that my best friend here at Rock Island High School would have to be Mr. Mike Melody. We have known each other for 19 years now, and we have taught a lot of the same classes, so we have worked closely together. Also, we have a lot of the same interests outside of school. We both enjoy softball and outdoor activities."
Mr. Catterton

"Mrs. Trimble! She is totally my work wife! I actually think I see her more than I actually do my own wife. This is our 11th year working together, and we are two peas in a pod. If there is anything that either of us needs, we know we can count on the other for help. We have very similar teaching styles. We are both laid back. We are both way cool!" -
Mr. LaRoche

"I have a few teacher BFFs, but Mrs. Mendelin is one who has taught me so much, listened to me, and shared many laughs."
Mrs. Harms

Nick Eli

Kathleen Evanchyk

Lavill Figgs

Dori Foster

Valerie Garrison

Dail Rice

Yolanda Grandberry Pugh

Marissa Grayson

Michelle Greenwood

Bill Gustafson

Andrew Hains

Emmanuel Hakizimana

Staff Athletes of the Year

If you could play for **ANY** professional sports team, who would you play for?

"First off, no professional sports team would ever want me to play for them. Instead, I would like to be an assistant for the Dallas Mavericks. I am a big fan of Coach Carlisle, and would like to learn from him. Also, one of my former players that I coached is now with the Mavericks."
Mr. Wynn

"This is really tough. I think I would pick the Chicago Bulls because I'm pretty good at mathketball, and I was born when they won the championship, so I feel like I belong."
Mrs. Grayson

"FC Barcelona because the greatest player in the world played there. The way they pick their players is very picky and precise. The team is very disciplined and structured, and they have the best stadium ever."
Mr. Almanza

"I would want to coach for the Cubs. This upcoming season, at least 2 major league teams are hiring females as hitting coaches. They specialized in biomechanics, and are now coaching. I THINK THAT'S AWESOME, and I wish I would have pursued something like that!"
Mrs. Young

"I would play for the US Women's National Soccer Team. I would love to represent the United States in one of the best sports in the world."
Mrs. Vroman

"I would play Quidditch for House Gryffindor! (Or, House Hufflepuff!)"
Mrs. Hayek

"St. Louis Cardinals because their organization exemplifies a high standard."
Mr. Campbell

"Boston Red Sox, so I can play in Fenway and beat the Yankees."
Mr. McCollum

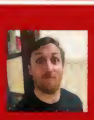
"It wouldn't be a professional sports team, but I would be a professional pickleball player. If that didn't work out for me, I would be a professional handball player. That way, I could potentially be an Olympic athlete."
Ms. Parer

"The Chicago Cubs. The reason why is because I've played softball my whole life, and have been a fan since I was a little girl."
Mrs. Randolph

"I would probably want to play for the Chicago Bears. They have been my favorite team since I was young, and watched Walter Payton as their running back."
Mr. Catterton

"I would play baseball for the New York Yankees. I would love to be in a big city and make big money. I also want to be on a team that is polarizing, and everybody either loves or hates."
Mr. Rogers

"Economics, because it was my favorite subject in college. I find it very challenging and interesting."
Mr. McCollum



"All my Senior math classes are my favorite to teach because I get to close the achievement gap and help send them out in the world as smarter human beings!"
Ms. Terronez

"My favorite class to teach is Spanish 3. Most students have a great grasp on Spanish and can hold a simple conversation."
Mrs. Regan

"APUSH because I like working with them. They are usually self-motivated and have lots of good discussions. Current Events because it's important to pay attention to the news."
Mrs. Randolph

What is your favorite class to teach **HERE?**

Ben Hammer

Jackie Harms

Connie Hayek

Keely Hornick

Meghan Jackson

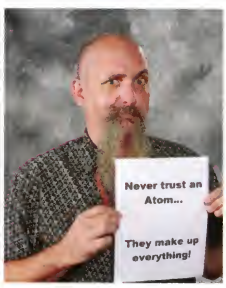
Jennifer Johnson

Troy Joseph

Chad Kennelly

Ben Kirgan

Lisa Lack



Christopher LaRoche

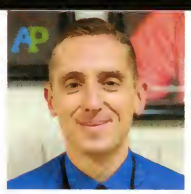
Kris Martens

Hello my name is I'M NEW HERE

New staff members share what they like most about ROCKY so far!

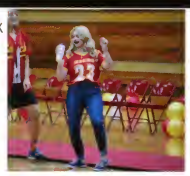
"I like coaching at Rocky vs. across the river. We have more tradition and the school feels like home. I used to student teach here, and ever since I became a teacher, I've been determined to come back to Rock Island."

LaVill Figgs



"What I love the most about working at Rock Island High School are the people! Our diversity is what makes this such an awesome learning environment. We can learn so much from one another and I think that's what makes Rock Island High School such a special place."

Dan Logan

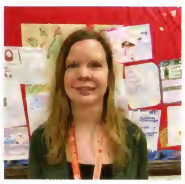


"What I like most about working at Rocky so far is how kind everyone has been to me– both students and teachers. Rocky has made me feel welcomed and at home every day I come to work. I also appreciate all of the people who have helped me out during these first few months by just giving me a smile or kind word on a difficult day."

Haley Denton

"I really enjoy my students! I am entertained and challenged every day. I knew I would like it here, but I didn't know I would love it so much."

Cassey Attebery



"I like the support I have from all the staff, including Melody Oswald, Marissa Grayson, and my science colleagues, Courtney Stone and Chris Gabany. My students are also amazing, and I look forward to seeing them grow over the rest of the year."

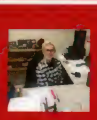
Heidi Nerud

"I've really appreciated how welcoming everyone at Rocky has been to me this year. I proposed a Board Game Club, and the school and students have really enjoyed it! I'm excited to provide an opportunity for students to hang out after school, and have fun!"

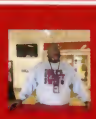
Katrina Miley

What is your favorite school event **HERE?**

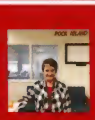
"My favorite event here is Homecoming Week because it's fun! I love seeing the kids get involved."
- Mrs. Nevener



"I would have to say graduation because it is rewarding to see students that I've personally helped get through high school and succeed with this accomplishment."
- Ms. Moody



"My favorite event is graduation. I know they are moving onto the next chapter of their lives, and I like seeing them move from children to young adults."
- Mr. Butler



"My favorite event is the musical. I like to see students showcasing their talent. I did it in high school, and I live vicariously through them."
- Mrs. Oswald

Laura Mathena

Jessica Matherly

Trish Matson

Cheryl McClendon

Mary Mendelin

Katie Mertel

Mike Mertel

Patty Mewes

Meghan Miers

Sarah Miers

Andrea Parer

Janna Miller-DeDecker

Saying Goodbye

Mrs. Schwab's Retirement from the Bookstore

Mrs. Connie Schwab has worked at Rock Island High School for thirty years. However, this year is her last. Throughout her time here, she has worked several different jobs. She started out as a special services paraprofessional, then worked as a dean's complex secretary, a special services secretary, and is currently the bookstore secretary. "Though I have enjoyed all my positions, I think the paraprofessional job was my favorite. I got to know the kids I worked with," Mrs. Schwab explained. For the past twelve years, Mrs. Schwab has worked in the bookstore. She makes copies, sells dance tickets, orders supplies, and more. "I work behind the scenes instead of out in front," she states, describing her role at Rocky.

Mrs. Schwab has enjoyed her time working here at Rocky. "My favorite thing about working at Rocky is the people. We have an incredible staff in this building, not just teachers and administrators, but the custodians, secretaries, hall monitors, cafeteria workers, and paraprofessionals all with one goal - helping everyone have the best high school experience they can and to graduate," Schwab explains.

This year, Mrs. Schwab is retiring from her long-standing position at Rocky. Though she has very much enjoyed working at the high school, she is looking forward to the free time she will have. "I am looking forward to spending time with my husband, children, and grandchildren," she said. Mrs. Schwab and her husband are also planning to travel to Ireland and take an Alaskan cruise. In addition to traveling, Mrs. Schwab stated, "I plan to do some volunteer work for my church, go to the events that my grandchildren participate in, read good books, and sleep later than 5 o'clock each morning." Though she looks forward to her new free time, Mrs. Schwab will miss her job at Rocky. "I will miss the people that I work with. It is such a wonderful assortment of people that we have here," she said. She has grown close to her coworkers and explained that they have helped her through bad times. "I think I feel about retiring the same way as the Class of 2020 feels about graduating. We are off on a brand new adventure, both exhilarating and scary. Though I did not graduate high school from here, part of me will always be a Rock," she said. Mrs. Schwab has been a crucial part of Rocky for 30 years, and she will be greatly missed by students and staff alike.

"Always remember to be authentic, and the truth is the best place to live."
Ms. Johnson

"Do your work. If you do your work, do it on time."
Mrs. Evanchyk

"Have fun!"
Mr. Sharp

"Start planning now."
Mr. Hains

What is your advice to students **HERE?**

Audrey Moody

Melody Oswald

Katrina Miley

Julie Pearson

Lisa Pittard

Michelle Redwood

Willie Randle

Amanda Randolph

Norma Ramirez

Nikki Regan

Stacy Rel

Shanley Resch

ROLLING INTO ROCKY

Aaron Buggs, a security guard here at Rock Island High School left people shocked when videos were seen of him roller skating online. In those videos, he surprised many with his skill with roller skating. Buggs, however, has been skating since he was a little boy. "I got my first pair of skates at the GoodWill at seven or eight. I couldn't skate, but had skates, so I just rode up and down the side walk when I had the opportunity," he explained. He then added, "I would use the drain pipe in my parents' basement and slowly but surely, I was like, I'm gonna go to the rink." With commitment like that, it is no surprise he is as good at skating as he is now. He mostly taught himself everything he knows, but along the way, he did learn a few tricks from his friends during his teen years. He stated that his favorite move/trick is the split and then a leg switch into a 4 revolution 360. Although he was not on a team, he enjoyed going to the rink, and sometimes, they would even have battles. "The time I spent at Butler's Skateland in Milwaukee, it would be packed with three to four hundred people skating. There'd be older folks and younger folks, and you could feel the enjoyment. Everyone was there to have a good time, and that's what made me fall in love with skating," Buggs stated. He has been skating for thirty-two years, and although he took a long break, it is something he has retained. He even helps out every now and then to teach younger kids how to skate.

What brought you **HERE** to Rocky to be a teacher or a coach?

"I came to Rock Island because I was assigned to work here for student teaching through St. Ambrose University, and I fell in love with the students and the staff."
Mrs. Resch

"Mr. Flaherty, my older brother's football coach, encouraged me to come back home to teach at my old high school. I have stayed at Rocky because of the students."
Mrs. Grandberry Pugh

"I went here. It was always my dream to come back and teach and coach the students."
Mr. Corwin

"I'm from the area, and I wanted to stay home to what I'm familiar with, and because Rocky is a great place to be."
Mr. Bollaert

Lance Riccio

Denzel Gay

Steven Rogers

David Schriefer

Connie Schwab

Craig Sharp

Sophia Sherrod

Thom Sigel

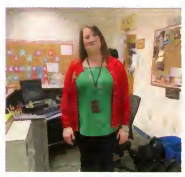
Pat Steger

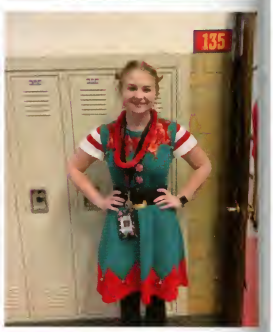
Courtney Stone

JoAnn Stribling

Theresa Terronez

STAFF SHOWING SPIRIT



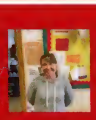


"I would teach agriculture, so we can save the world with organic farming."
Ms. Johnson

"I would teach The Art of the Cardigan. It's an important item of clothing. One should know how to wear it well."
Ms. Miers

"I would teach the Physiology of Birkenstocks, how to wear them in all seasons, but it would only be a semester class."
Mr. Campbell

"I would teach Entomology, the study of bugs, because that is what I got my masters degree in."
Mrs. Vroman



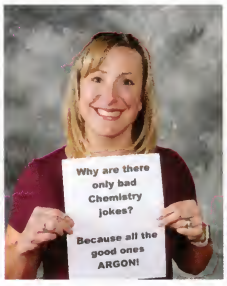
If you could teach anything **HERE,** what would it be?

Yolanda Terronez

Justin Thies

Shari Thompson

Maria Trigueros



Jennifer Trimble

Kim Vankirk

Angela Vega

Laura Vroman

Jay Wayland

Wade Weber

Jeff Whitaker

Jarrin Williams

Dan Coyne-Logan

Tracy Wyers

Kelly Young

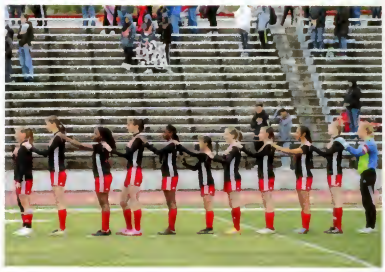
Becoming a ROCK

Ms. Julie Churchill is new to the Rocky ways this year, and is fitting in great! Ms. Churchill said that she chose Rock Island High School because,"I did my counseling internship at Rocky back in 2015-2016, and loved my time here, so when I heard about the job opening, I was very excited, and even more excited when I got the job. I was looking forward to working with a counseling team, and really loved the 5 minute drive to work, since for my previous job, I commuted 50 minutes each way." Ms. Churchill's favorite aspect about working at the Rock is, "Having a counseling team that I can go to for anything; after having worked as the only counselor in my previous school, having co-workers that I can go to for anything is really great. Outside of the counseling office, every staff member at Rocky has truly made my first year very enjoyable! Everyone is very friendly and has gone out of their way to welcome me. Having supportive co-workers makes all the difference in the world!" Ms. Churchill also said that Rocky is treating her very well. "Not only have the staff been amazing, but the students, whether they're in my alphabet or not, are incredibly friendly and great to work with. I'm so happy that I get to be a part of the Rocky community!" Churchill explains.

HERE

at Rocky, many students are also student athletes. Being a student athlete means you sacrifice sleep to study or get some work done. You also sacrifice hanging out with friends after school because of practices. Here, each sport means something different to every athlete, but ultimately, you all work for the same goal. Being an athlete at RIHS means leaving your blood, sweat, and tears on the court, field, course, track, or even in the pool. You practice hard every day, and dedicate yourself to the sports you love. You push yourself to your limits, and continue to grind in the off seasons.

Here, you provide the best sportsmanship in the Quad Cities because you know you represent the school and town, as a whole. Here, as a family, your team wins together, loses together, and maybe even ties together. Once you graduate and move on, you will always remember the fun bus rides, tournaments, and everything you have accomplished as student athletes. Here, at Almquist Field, the Rock Garden, Frances Willard Fields, Saukie, Backyard Bowl, the swimming pool, and Highland Springs, you only have 4 years to be a student athlete, so you go big, and always feel at home.



CAPTAINS TACKLE A BIG ROLE

"Being a team captain is a big responsibility and great privilege to be a leader on the team."
Mj Stern, 12

"The strength of the team is the strength of the leaders. To me, being a Captain means to be a role model for my teammates, and I could not be happier to take on this role."
Jayden Upton, 12

"I have a lot of pride when it comes to being a captain of the football team. Being able to represent and lead the team is an honor and an achievement in my life."
Harju Ree, 11

"It was an honor being selected captain by my peers as a Junior. Hopefully, I get the honor to be a captain next year, as well."
Marriyon Rogers, 11

Above: Captains Mj Stern, Marriyon Rogers, Harju Ree, and Jayden Upton stand at the 50 yard line for the coin flip against Metamora.

Above: Outside Linebacker Terrell Akers gives Coach Hammer a high five while running off the field.

Above: Junior Captain Marriyon Rogers stands and mentally prepares for the kickoff.

HERE at Almquist Field lies a massive rock. To most football players throughout the years, it has been more than just a rock. This destination is important to the football program. As a team, before walking onto the field, they touch the rock in some way and say a prayer for good luck.

Sophomore Spotlight

"As a Sophomore, it can be difficult, but it is something I like doing. Taking on the lead role is fun and exciting, playing with this team." - Elijah Reese

As a freshman, Elijah Reese dressed every Varsity game as a 3rd string quarterback, but never got the chance to prove himself. He would start as the quarterback for all the Sophomore games, as a Freshman. However, this year, Eli has been sharing the starting Varsity quarterback position with Devin Swift. He is a prime example of introducing a bright future for the Rocks.

POUND THE

ROCK

ROCKING THE SEASON INTO PLAYOFFS

Above: Ja'Kye Hill takes a short breather after a tough play against the Boilermakers.
Left: Runningback Marriyon Rogers races past the Boilermakers' defense.

Here, taking a look back on the 2019 Football Season, the Rock Island Rocks ended the WB6 Conference with a 7-1 record. The Rocks played a long, tough, and exciting season, especially with the addition of Sterling and Geneseo in the Conference. Head Coach Ben Hammer states, "We played in a very talented conference. I think the players did a nice job with on the field game preparation from week to week." Senior Victor Guzman III adds, "I believe our Conference, this season, has been way tougher than it has been for the past few years, which I think has really helped us going into the playoffs, showing us many different types of teams and formations that we could face in the playoffs." The Rocks made it through the first round of the post season, then hosted a second round Playoff game at Almquist Field, which was a huge accomplishment this season! "Making it to the second round Playoffs to get a home game was my favorite part of the season because, as a senior, it means a lot to get the chance to play at home one last time, and to the entire team to make it this far," explained Guzman. As the seniors wrap up their last season, the future Rock Island Varsity Football Team is left in good hands, and as Coach Hammer said, "Their greatest accomplishments are yet to come."

O.T.F. Traditions

"The night of the Red and Gold Game, we put stickers on our helmets."
- Jaiden VanCoillie, Left

"Every year, we host a kids' camp in the summer that I enjoy helping with, and being a role model to the future Rocks."
- Davion Wilson, Right

Junior Varsity Football

Freshman Football

HOOPS THEY DID IT AGAIN

This year's RI Varsity Boys' Basketball Team has been very exciting to watch over the season. Head Coach, Thom Sigel, will be the first to admit that he has a special team on his hands. In the start of the season, the team began with a tough stretch of injuries to key players. Jordan Rice, Taurean Holtam, Andrew McDuffy, Colton Sigel, and Romeo Metcalf all had injuries that caused them to sit out at pivotal, season changing games. The team certainly faced challenges in conference play. Sigel notes that captains, Solomon Gustafson and Malachi Key were useful components in the regular season, by using their leadership roles both in regular season games and tournaments. Some of the best highlights of the season included winning the RI-Milan Booster Club Thanksgiving Classic and the State Farm Holiday Classic Tournament for the second year in a row. Coach Sigel stated, "We had returning players, Solomon Gustafson, Taurean Holtam, Jordan Rice, Malachi Key, Alijah Walker-Lee, and Andrew McDuffy, who were in the rotation last year, and added key contributions during the year from juniors, Colton Sigel, Romeo Metcalf, and Devin Swift, as well as sophomores, Amarion Nimmers and Eli Reese." However, the players' work on the court is only part of what Sigel is proud of, regarding his program. He states, "It is always a pleasure to hear when our players represent our school and community by acting with class and dignity."

Andrew McDuffy

Malachi Key

Varsity Team

Front Row (L to R): Jacob Kirby, Devin Swift, Trevor Beckman, Colton Sigel, Jordan Rice, Amarion Nimmers, Rob Pulliam, Alijah Walker-Lee, Jeremiah Kirby. Back Row (L to R): Coach Rodgers, Andrew McDuffy, Baker Beal, Taurean Holtam, Malachi Key, Coach Sigel, Solomon Gustafson, Romeo Metcalf, Marieon Anderson, Eli Reese, Coach Colvin.

HERE at the Field House, is where the Rocky Boys' Basketball Team spends their winter nights. They work hard, run the court, excite the crowd, and always makes RI proud.

SENIOR ROCKS

"When I played, I went crazy."
Alijah Walker-Lee

"My future plans are to attend Quincy University, and continue playing basketball, and I am undecided on what I want to study. I want to be remembered for being a positive role model on the team."
Solomon Gustafson

"My future plans are going to play JuCo basketball, and I want to be remembered for my leadership and work ethic."
Malachi Key

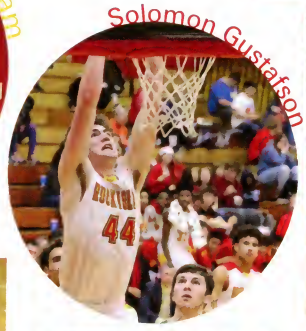
"My future plans are to go to college to play basketball and study chemical engineering, and by the end of my career, I want to be remembered as a person who does whatever I have to to make sure my team wins."
Taurean Holtam

"My future plans are to study Kinesiology, and I want to be remembered for being a genuinely nice person, who always gave 100%."
Andrew McDuffy

SENIORS

Alijah Walker-Lee

Taurean Holtam


Solomon Gustafson

Freshmen Team

JV Team

MTI SCORE

STANDOUT ATHLETE

"Being Athlete of the Week was a huge honor to me, knowing that other people noticed the work and effort that I put into games and practices."
Mikayla DePover

HERE at the stadium is where the Lady Rocks show that they are not just a team, but that they are a family. The field is also where they came together to win Regionals for the first time in school history!

"It was an exciting and amazing feeling, winning Regionals for the first time in Rocky history! It was something that I was very proud to be a part of."
Olivia Bowman, 10

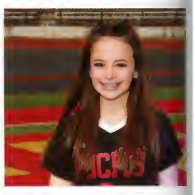
"It felt great, and I felt that we finally pushed the rock up on top of the hill."
Lah Paw, 12

"I felt very proud because we worked hard for it, and it made us confident. Winning made us want to work ten times harder."
Uda Kimba, 10

"Winning Regionals made me feel great! It gave the girls the confidence to do it again!"
Hae Nay Sher, 12

"Winning Regionals was an amazing feeling. Our team worked extremely hard to earn that reward. We couldn't have done it without each other."
Alyssa Groothaert, 11

"Hearing the timer go off, calling the game, I felt so relieved and accomplished that we won. Knowing we worked hard every day during practice, we deserved the win."
Kelly Canning, 10



LADY ROCKS *MAKE* HISTORY

This season was an especially exciting one for the Lady Rocks, as they made school history by winning the first ever Regional Championship for girls soccer. Coach Mertel said, "We struggled a bit early on. We lost a few games to teams we definitely could have beaten." The team was able to accomplish so much with the help of great leadership. Team captains, Mikayla DePover and Kayla Garcia, were prime examples of this leadership. They pushed their teammates throughout the season. Mertel also stated, "Every single player had a huge impact, and we would not have made it to where we did without every single one of them."

The season was also memorable because of the excitement and team chemistry the girls had. Uda Kimba explained, "The season was so much fun. Everyone was so hyped for every game day, practice, team dinner, and more. Our goal was to beat a second Conference opponent." The team also wanted to finish the season at .500, and win a Regional Championship. This year, the ladies accomplished their goals! The team's success was also due to a focus on GRIT and bonding. Mertel said that his favorite memory was, "The whole month leading up to that moment [winning Regionals], while most teams start slumping and losing focus, we were just getting started."

Now that the ladies have shown what they can do, there is no doubt they will continue their tradition of pride, GRIT, and excellence.

Varsity Team

Front Row (L to R): Say Say, Olivia Bowman, Uda Kimba, Mikayla DePover, Law Paw, Haylie Roos, Isabella Sosa, Alyssa Groothaert
Middle Row (L to R): Ruby Romero, Abbie Roos, Ywa Paw, Kelly Canning, Monserrat Lopez, Hae Sher
Top Row (L to R): Coach Rudy Almanza, Coach Jacob Dryling, Kayla Garcia, Amy Haskill, Amber Haskill, Lauren Weeks, Coach Mike Mertel, Coach Shanley Resch

JV Team

Front Row (L to R): Nibitanga Pascalin, Isabella Lopez, Maria Amezola, Hailee Schwab, Kilaya Campbell, Bailey Ramirez, Soe Paw
Middle Row (L to R): Nu Nu Khin, Kayliana Trahan, Juliana Kruzic, Lah Htoo, Nywe Nywe Win, Brigitte Pendeza
Back Row (L to R): Coach Rudy Almanza, Coach Jacob Dryling, Daniela Martinez, Amy Dennhardt, Anna Vermeire, Coach Mike Mertel, Coach Shanley Resch

The Varsity Team celebrates after beating Orion/Sherrard, who the Lady Rocks lost to twice during the season. Their win against Orion/Sherrard resulted with the Rocks winning the first ever Regional Championship in Rocky history!

TEAM NAME

US		THEM
1	Byron	2
0	Pekin	3
0	Princeton	1
2	LaSalle-Peru	0
7	Galesburg	0
0	Orion/Sherrard	3
1	Davenport Central	0
0	Alleman	3
2	Davenport West	1
0	Orion/Sherrard	4
0	Byron	0
1	Quincy	4
7	Davenport West	1
0	Moline	4
1	Davenport North	1
3	Clinton	1
4	East Moline (UT)	3
0	Geneseo	7
5	Streator/Woodland	1
1	Orion/Sherrard	0

The Lady Rocks joined together for a group picture on Senior Night. The Lady Rocks knew this game would be a tough one, but they could handle it, as long as they put in their best effort and showed that they wanted to win more than the other team. The last Conference game against UT went into overtime, resulting in a 4-3 win for the Lady Rocks!

Order ON THE Court

The 2019 Girls Tennis Team had an eventful season. They went 2-8, and placed 7th in Conference. "Our Conference this year was very deep in terms of returning talent, and the addition of Sterling and Geneseo to the Conference made it even tougher. We had some experienced Varsity players, but since several seniors graduated last year, they had to move up on the Varsity ladder and play tougher competition," Coach Gabany said. Two dedicated seniors, Zoe Veasey and Elyse O'Brien, acted as team leaders, who set examples for younger players, and motivated the team. In addition to these leaders, key players, this year, were Erin Teggatz and Ndayikengurukiye Jacquiline. Newcomers Elise Aunan, Hlaing (Mimi) Oo, and Kyi Man also impacted the team this season. Gabany said his goals for the season were, "Continuous improvement at all levels (Varsity & Junior Varsity). Also continuing to implement proper doubles and singles strategies into our matches." He stated that the team met their goals. "Yes, the girls worked very hard day in and day out to improve their game. The returning players gained a lot of valuable experience that they can draw from and carry over into next season," he explained. Gabany and the team look forward to continuing to improve next season.

HERE on Rocky's new tennis courts is where the Lady Rocks competed this year. "The courts are such an improvement, and they are so much better to play on. It's so nice to be proud of our courts at home meets!" Senior Zoe Veasey said.

SERVING UP favorite memories

"I enjoy playing with my friends and making memories. I enjoy playing Varsity because it makes me a stronger player on the team."

Erin Teggatz, 11

"My favorite part of playing tennis is the excitement I get from winning a point, and the encouragement from the rest of the team."

Zoe Veasey, 12

"I absolutely love bonding and traveling with the team."

Elyse O'Brien, 12

THE SEASON OFF THE COURT

THE ARCH. The Lady Rocks enjoyed some fun team bonding in St. Louis, when they traveled to a tournament.

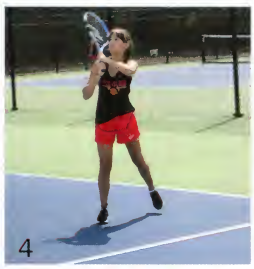
THE HOMECOMING PARADE. The Lady Rocks participated in the Homecoming Parade this year. The team had a great showing at the event, where they celebrated Rocky's traditions together!

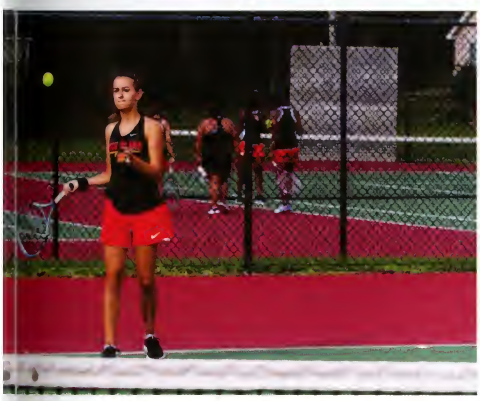
THE BANQUET. The Lady Rocks celebrated their season at their banquet where they bowled, as well as honored each team member.

THE 2019 VARSITY LADY ROCKS TENNIS TEAM

RIGHT: The girls gather around Coach Gabany to listen to his directions for practice. The girls were lucky to practice and compete on brand new courts this year.

Above: Senior Zoe Veasey bounces the ball before a serve. Veasey has been playing Varsity throughout her high school career, and has taken over the number one spot this year.





1. Senior Zoe Veasey serves in a match.
2. Junior Erin Teggatz watches the follow through of her hit.
3. Elise Aunan prepares as the ball comes her way.
4. Elise Aunan finishes her swing.
5. Freshman, Elise Aunan got the opportunity to start her career on Rocky's newly reconstructed home courts.
6. Jacquiline Ndayikengurukiye hits a forehand against her opponent.

ACE-ING 2019

Rocky Senior Mj Stern has competed on the Varsity Tennis Team for 4 years. During that time, he has proven himself to be a team leader and top competitor. Stern states, "I love being on the Tennis Team because it's a very fun sport and the team has a great bond."

The Rock Island Tennis Team was put to the test as they competed in a very tough conference. The Rocks finished 4-10, and finished 5th in the Western Big 6.The team was led by Head Coach Chris Gabany. The Boy's Tennis Team went into this season with a goal. "We wanted to always continue to improve and understand mistakes, so that they can be corrected and prevented in the future," said Gabany. The Rocks faced many ups and downs, but at the end of the season, they had a lot to be proud of. The Tennis Team improved and got better for next year. "We faced a lot of tough, experienced competition. Our Conference is very strong and experienced. They continued to compete and improve, and played their best tennis when it counted in the Sectional Tournament. As a team, we won 4 matches in the Sectional Tournament," said Gabany. As the Rocks have some very young talent coming up, they are excited to compete next spring.

NILS EMPEN

KOWEN WILHELM

LOGAN WYERS

HERE

at Rocky's home courts, the Rocks defend their pride and hard work. While the courts were redone over the summer, the boys had a great season playing on the old courts one last time.

THE 2019 VARSITY TEAM

Above: Storm Stern serves for the Rocks.

Right: Ian Empen hits a forehand.

THE ROCKS MAKE A RACKET

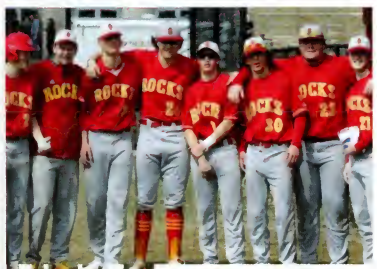
This past season, the Rocks finished 4-5 in tournament play and 20-25 in matches. Rocky senior, Kowen Wilhelm reflected on the season, stating, "We really worked together well. We all had our different abilities, and we specialized in different areas, and we all tried our best." Regardless of wins or losses during the season, Kowen was clear about his favorite memory from the season. He explained what he enjoyed the most was, "The bus trips. Everyone told jokes and stories. They were always funny." Kowen is a four year Varsity letter winner for the Rocks, and in this upcoming season, he is looking forward to a change in the Rocks' Tennis home courts- the newly redone tennis courts that were finished over the summer. Wilhelm explained, "I really like that we have new courts because the old ones were getting pretty difficult to play on."

ROCKS' MOST IMPROVED

In the season of 2018, then junior Tyler Lampkin and sophomore Vincent Esposito looked to be key players for the Rock Island Rocks. After a tough season, both bounced back. In the 2019 season, Lampkin found himself starting at 3rd base every day, and Esposito played both right field and first base, while also batting in the middle of the Rocks' batting order. Esposito was also named an All-Conference player for the Rocks. Both athletes were great contributors to the Rocks during the 2019 season!

SENIOR BATTERY MATES LEAD ROCKS

The Rocks had many seniors on their squad, but every Conference game was led on the mound by seniors Spencer Hasselroth and Jesse Linch behind the plate. Both graduated in 2019 and are playing for local colleges, as Hasselroth is playing for Augustana College and Linch is playing for Black Hawk College.



HERE

Rock Island Baseball is not just a team, but a family. This squad of young men pride themselves on buying into the program and doing whatever they can for the team. Here, on the field, they are a family.

GOALS for the SEASON

Vincent Esposito

"My personal goal for my senior year is to grow as an all around baseball player, and get drafted out of high school and play baseball."

Henry Thompson

"My personal goal for my senior year is to perform at a competitive level and win Conference."

Ryan Nickel

"My personal goal for my senior year is to maintain a low ERA and stay consistent in my performance. As a team, my goal for us is to have at least a .500 W/L record."

Sluggers AT THE Rock

Senior Led Rocks Look To Repeat Successful Season

After having a positive season in 2018, the Rock Island Rocks looked to improve on the previous season with a team full of experienced players in 2019, as 10 of them had played the year before. This team was a very senior heavy team, with multiple experienced Varsity players, such as senior Charlie Allison, who was a 4 year Varsity player, senior Spencer Hasselroth, who was a 3 year Varsity player, and Vincent Esposito, who was a 3 year Varsity player. Senior Spencer Hasselroth said, "The upperclassmen and experienced Varsity players were very important to this team's success. Players who have been there before needed to step up as leaders, and produce at the level they are capable of in order for this team to have success." The Varsity Baseball Team finished their season 13-18-1, with a record of 3-7 in Conference play. While this season was tough for the Rocks, they are hopeful for the future. The Rocks look to regroup, as a team, under new Head Coach Jake Scudder, and have a successful season in the upcoming spring.

MEET THE ROCKS

VARSITY

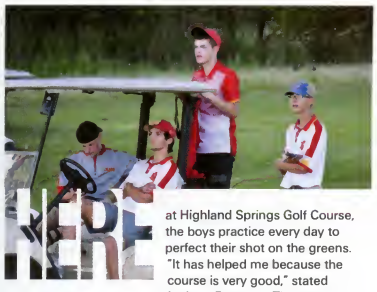
JUNIOR VARSITY

1. Seniors Spencer Hasselroth and Charlie Allison share a smile on the pitchers mound in between pitches.

2. Senior 3rd baseman, Tyler Lampkin gets into his batting stance and prepares for the pitch.

3. Senior 1st baseman, Aaron Voss loads up for the pitch as he gets ready to take a swing.

4. Senior Bryce Trask focuses in on the pitcher and prepares to attack the incoming pitch.



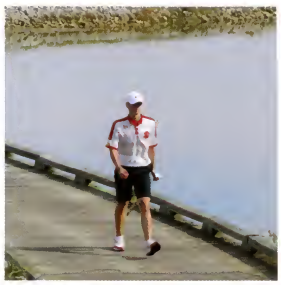
HERE at Highland Springs Golf Course, the boys practice every day to perfect their shot on the greens. "It has helped me because the course is very good," stated Andrew Freeman. The team enjoys the course because it has helped them be their best at meets.

Making Memories **at Meets**

The Golf Team had a great season, once again this year. The team practiced hard every day. They finished 5th in the Conference Meet and 6th in Regionals. "We had challenges from the start of the season. Two of our top returning players were unavailable for the entire season. One had an injury and one had a personal issue that precluded them from playing at all," said Coach Sharp. Even though the team was missing two of their players, they had a lot of fun. "We did not win many meets, but we had a good time! We only had one person go to Sectionals. But, overall, we progressed throughout the year," said Nathan Steinbeck. Captain Ryan Nickel echoed his teammate, stating, "I think considering most of the circumstances with having lots of newcomers and losing two of our returning Varsity players, it was a pretty good season. Most players made improvements, and put up good scores for the positions we were put in. It could have been better, of course, but so can everything." Everyone believed that the season progressively became better. "For my first time going out for the Golf Team, I cannot be mad at how I did. It was a really good experience to play with people better than me to gain experience," said Austin Muller.

Despite the challenges, everyone has their favorite memory from this year's season. "My favorite memory was at Regionals because all three of the seniors out of the six players shot their best scores of the year. This was a nice way for them to end their high school careers," said Coach Sharp. "My favorite part of the season was going to the Western Big 6 Conference," Austin stated. It wasn't just competing that made the boys enjoy the season though. "The bus rides with all the guys, and being a part of the All-Conference Team were my favorite parts of the season," Colton Sigel stated.

Back Row: Coach Sharp, Colton Sigel, Ryan Nickel, Alex Kern, Kaleb Rossi, Aaron York, Coach Sigel
Middle Row: Mason Finch, Landon Hamilton, Tyler Wolf, Andrew Freeman, Kyle Matherly, Devin Krup, Christian Johnson, Ashton Timm
Front Row: Austin Muller, Elijah Boeye, Austin Carlson, Brycen McGarry, Nathan Steinbeck, Aden Rassmussen



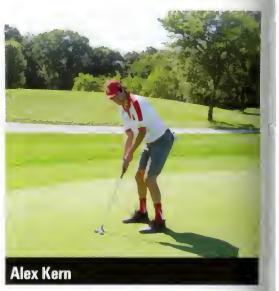
Meet The Captains

Colton Sigel. Sigel is a junior and has been golfing for five years. This is the first year he has been a captain. "The best thing about being a captain is being looked up to and being in charge," he stated. "The hardest part about being a captain is trying to keep everyone focused." He explained, "My favorite part of the season was when I was in All Conference this year."

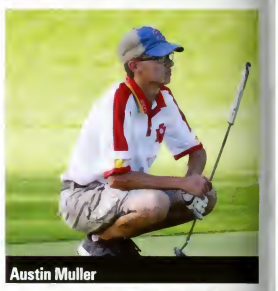
Ryan Nickel. Nickel is a senior and he has been golfing for four years. This is the first year that he has been a captain. "The hardest part of being a captain is knowing when and what to say," he explained. "The best part is knowing you are trusted by the coaches to be reliable," he continued. His favorite moment from this season was being able to go and experience Sectional Competition.

Teeing It Off To Sectionals

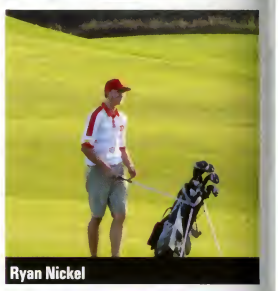
This season, Ryan Nickel qualified for Sectionals. "It is really exciting to just have the chance to play at a higher level of golf. It is really intimidating, but I like the challenge, and I am anxious to see what I can do," Nickel said. After competing in the post season, Nickel explained, "Sectionals was a great experience. It was really great to be able to play with people that perform at such a high level. Although I did not perform very well personally, I learned a lot about my own game, and had a good time meeting the people I played with."



Alex Kern

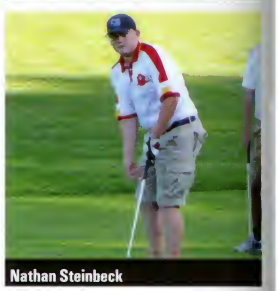


Austin Muller

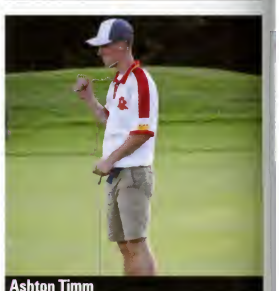


Ryan Nickel

Kaleb Rossi



Nathan Steinbeck

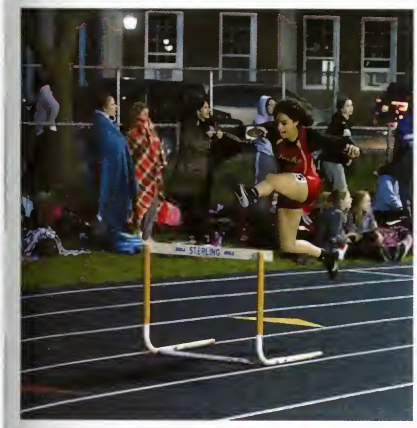


Ashton Timm

Meet the Seniors

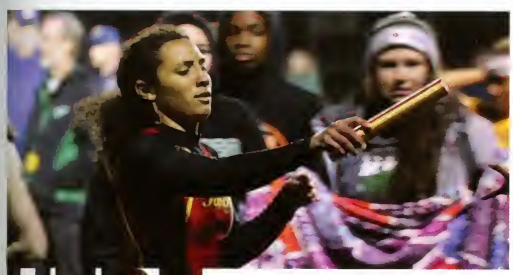
2019 GIRLS TRACK

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON



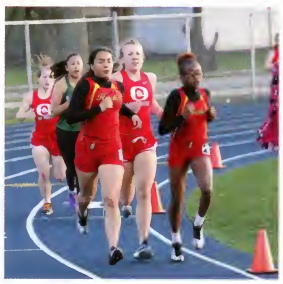
The Girls Track Team ended their 2019 season with another successful year. The girls started conditioning at the beginning of the school year, and gradually gathered more and more girls to develop a very competitive and strong team by the time the season started. Coach Vesey explained that the team's most successful meet was the Monmouth Invitational and the Lancer Relays, where the team took first place.

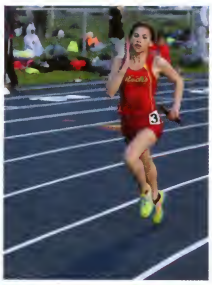
Regardless of the meet, the team had many standout athletes and leaders. Coach Vesey noted Mirsa Boyer, Stanita Zulu, Valerie Holland, and Jayla Hathorn as team captains. Vesey stated that other notable contributors to the team included Mirsa Boyer, DaViona Hearn, Najah Vesey, Mar'Cha Woodson, and Jayla Hathorn. At the Conference Meet, the team took third place, but took first in the 4x200 Relay, made up of Marielle Kelley, Mar'Cha Woodson, Najah Vesey, and Jayla Hathorn, first in the 300 Hurdles by Mar'Cha Woodson, who was freshman Conference Champion in the event, which hadn't happened in over 10 years. In the post season, the 4x200 Relay qualified for the State Meet, with the team of DaViona Hearn, Najah Vesey, Mirsa Boyer, and Jayla Hathorn, as well as discus thrower, MarCeisha Jackson. Overall, the Lady Rocks had another strong season, where they continued their tradition of excellence in track and field.

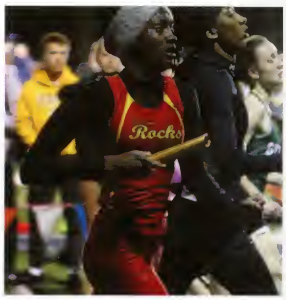


HERE on the track, is where the Lady Rocks know they cannot be beaten.

While not all the athletes compete on the track, as some compete in the throws or in the jumps, the Lady Rocks Track Team knows that this track, is where they all warm up and bond together, and is where they become a team, and continue their tradition of excellence. One of Rocky's top runners, DaViona Hearn says, "The best part of running for Rocky is getting closer with my teammates and being able to win individually, and as a whole." Here on the track will forever be the place the girls will remember, where they shed tears, ran hard, jumped far, and most importantly, it will be the place they can always call home.







Girls Basketball Szn

In this 2019-2020 season, the Lady Rocks finished strong with a 10-4 record in Conference. This is the 5th straight season the program has finished with 10 wins in the WB6. With their overall record, 23-10, they played many tough teams and played through HUGE adversities. The team was led by senior captains, Breona Williams, Morgan Freeman, and Hannah Simmer. Coach Hall was proud of his girls every second. "They represented themselves, school, and their families with pRIde!" Coach Hall explained. He continued, stating, "Every day with our team is my favorite. They are a great group of young ladies. But, I will say I though us finishing 23-10 was great for the program. I don't think many people at ALL thought we would be any good after losing the best player in the history of our program. We have a good PROGRAM, and have had for awhile. That we will continue to do."

T W 3

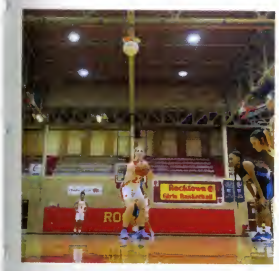
[Together We Will Win]

Morgan Freeman

Breona Williams

Hannah Simmer

SENIORS



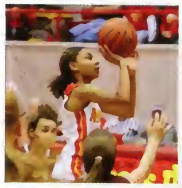
Back Row L-R: Coach Larry, Imari McDuffy, Cearra Hickman, TaNyha Pugh-Nimmers, Brooklynn Larson, Coach Hall, Jamyah Winter, Emily Allison, Alivia Wright, D'Leyah Conner, Coach Shavonne
Front Row L-R: Amelia Peña, Gracie Sims, Breona Williams, Morgan Freeman, Hannah Simmer, Ella Engholm

Back Row L-R: Coach Voss, D. Rush, M. Meirhaeghe, B. Stewart, Coach Hudnall, K. Davis, D. Robinson, M. Tuombe, Coach Randle
Front Row L-R: E. Bea, K. Rice, N. Watson, M. McQueen, A. Malual, T. Jamison, N. Hamilton, Y. Jones, A. Mathews

Back Row L-R: Y. Jones, A. Malual, Coach Randle, M. McQueen, K. Rice
Front Row L-R: A. Matthews, T. Jamison, M. Meirhaeghe, E. Bea, N. Hamilton, D. Robinson

What was your **FAVORTE** memory?

"The fun we had at the State Farm Tournament."
- Brooklynn Larson



"Winning our first ever Thanksgiving Tournament."
- Morgan Freeman

"When Coach Hall danced in the locker room after we beat Moline."
- Jamyah Winter

"The dance competitions in the locker room."
- D'Leyah Conner

"When Coach Larry made us do a trust bonding exercise."
- Cearra Hickman

HERE

Playing in the gym is so exciting. To be able to look up and see all of our fans makes being a Lady Rock even more worth it. Our gym is our second home.

What is it like playing for the Lady Rocks?

"It's great, because of all of the histories and traditions. It has made me a better person/player."
- Imari McDuffy

What has this experience done for you?

"This has made me a better athlete and person. I will carry over these lessons to all aspects of life and even into other sports."
- Emily Allison

Rocky Rituals

The Girls Swim Team has many rituals and traditions that they participate in throughout the season that most would say create a bond that will last a lifetime.

The Dolphin & the Captain's Bell
"The captain's bell and the dolphin were passed down to me and Madelynn by the previous captains, and it is a real honor to have been given them."
- Anna Rowell

Crocs!
"I like wearing crocs during meets because they are comfy and there is lots of different colors to choose from!"
- Olivia Sholl

Fish Feeds
"I love having our fish feeds because it is like a last 'huzzah' before our meets. We just eat a bunch of food, laugh, and yell at each other. Most of our team bonding is at our fish feeds."
- Allyson Smithson

Corn Rows
"It's funny to see the girls in corn rows because we don't do it all the time."
- Abbie Roos

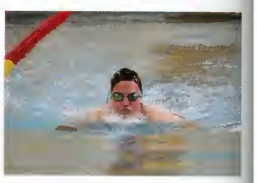
Not Shaving
"After the Homecoming Dance, the whole team doesn't shave their legs because it drags when we swim, and then, the day before Sectionals, we have a big shaving party in the boys locker room, so the day of the meet, we all feel fast during our races."
- Emily LeVan

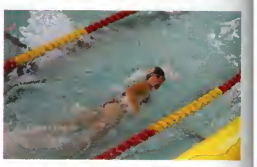
One Team, One Family

Captains Anna Rowell, Madelynn DePover, and Tristan Lambert lead the Swim Team in a cheer before their meet against UT at the Rocky pool.

The Girls' Swim Team lines up in preparation for the National Anthem to be played before a home meet against United Township High School.

DePover, Lambert, Reynolds, Hecker, LeVan, and Kelly cheer on a fellow teammate at the Freeport Invite.

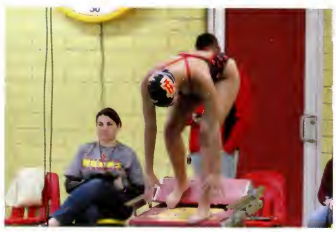


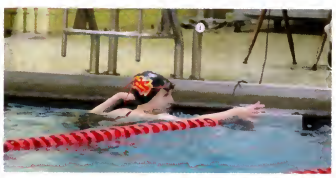


Top Row (L to R): Coach Busch, Coach Brown, B. Hecker, R. Rocillo, R. Rodriguez, E. McKinley, O. Sholl, H. Roos, E. Smithson, Coach Parer
Middle Row (L to R): A. Dietz, L. Hickenbottom, A. Reynolds, A. Roos, A. Smithson, M. Kelly, K. Douglas, J. Marceleno
Front Row (L to R): A. Cortez, A. Rowell, H. Burroughs, E. LeVan, T. Lambert, M. DePover

Coaching at the Rock

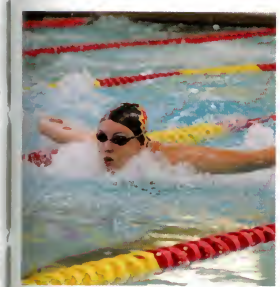
"My favorite part about coaching is seeing the smile on a kid's face after they look up at the scoreboard, seeing a best time. It doesn't matter how fast or slow the kid is, it is their personal best that they work hard every day to get."
- Head Coach David Busch





Pushed into the Pool

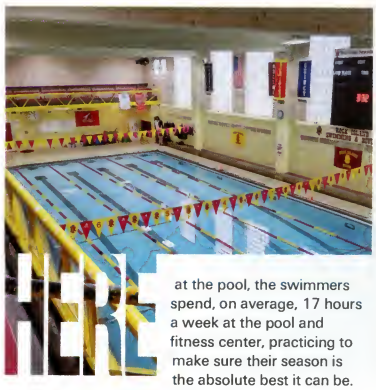
This year, the Girls Swim Team had a very successful season. Led by the team captains, Anna Rowell, Madelynn DePover, and Tristan Lambert, the team set goals and were able to accomplish them. Coach Busch says, "The captains were always at practice and worked very hard throughout the season." The girls had great Conference and Sectionals Meets, gaining personal records in almost all events swam. Overall, the team got 3rd in Conference, which was held at Galesburg High School, and saw Anna Rowell win 3rd place in the 50 Free, Madelynn DePover placed 3rd in the 500 Free, Olivia Sholl placed 1st in the 100 Breaststroke, Allyson Smithson placed 3rd in the 200 Free, the 200 Free Relay consisting of Rowell, Sholl, Smithson, and Hecker, and the 400 Free Relay comprised of Smithson, Sholl, Hecker, and Lambert, and placed 3rd. At the Sectionals Meet, which was held at United Township High School, Olivia Sholl, a sophomore, won her 100 Breaststroke race, earning her a ticket to the State Meet, where she was seeded 34th, but ended up placing 28th. Sholl, Hecker, Smithson, and Rowell placed 5th in the 200 Free Relay and in the 400 Relay, which consisted of Smithson, Sholl, Hecker and Lambert. Allyson Smithson placed 6th in the 100 Free. "The team was able to accomplish all of our goals of having great Conference and Sectionals Meets, and I couldn't be happier with how the season went," says Head Coach Dave Busch. The team had a lot of fun and spent tons of time together this season, both in the pool and out. They bonded at fish feeds, otherwise known as team dinners, at meets, and on long bus rides on their way to compete against opposing teams. They shared laughter, as well as wins and losses, but ultimately, were brought closer and would now consider themselves as not only a team, but also a family.



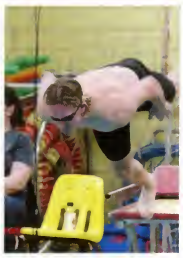
"It is crazy to think that we once looked up to our captains, and now, you have people coming up to you, asking for help, when you still do not know what is going on."
- Tristan Lambert

"It is really fun being able to pass on the traditions that were given to us when we were younger to the newer girls, and seeing them enjoy them as much as we do."
- Anna Rowell

"I like knowing that I was able to become a leader of something that I have been participating in for a very large portion of my life."
- Madelynn DePover

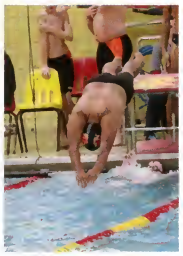


HERE at the pool, the swimmers spend, on average, 17 hours a week at the pool and fitness center, practicing to make sure their season is the absolute best it can be. "The pool is like a second home. Sometimes, you love being there, and sometimes, you can't stand to be there," stated freshman Bailey Hecker. Despite the challenges of tough workouts in the pool, this place becomes a home for the girls on the team.



"My favorite part about swimming is the bonds that I am able to make with the rest of the team, and the fact that I am able to push myself to be the best I can be."
Ryan Nickel, Senior

"My favorite part about being on the swim team is hanging out with all the boys."
Noah Rettig, Junior



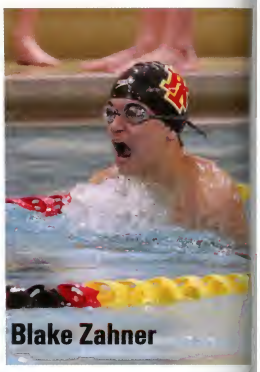
"My favorite part about swimming is the individual and team aspect. You have your own times to beat, but your teammates are always there to both compete against you and cheer you on."
Peh Lay, Sophomore

"My favorite part of swimming for Rocky is the team aspect and friendships and memories that have come out of it."
Xavier Lolli, Freshman

Dive In!

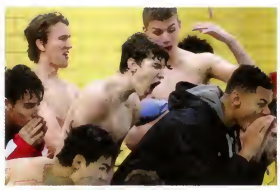
Swim like a Rock

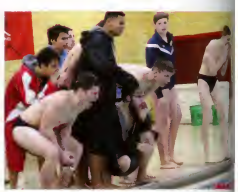
This year, the swimmers and divers had a very productive and successful season. At the Conference and Sectionals Meets, many of the boys placed high in ranking, including Ryan Nickel, Noah Rettig, Payton Cassidy, Lucas Rettig, Xavier Lolli, and Shay Wright. The team has a lot of fun inside and outside of the pool, and have a very strong bond. "They come in twice a day and work real hard in practice, so it is a bonding through a lot of practices and hard work," says Head Coach Dave Busch. This year, the team also had a very strong freshman class, who brought in a lot of important points towards the success of their season. "We had a lot of freshmen this year that performed really well. Xavier Lolli, Cade Barnes, Lucas Rettig, Jude Rowell, Ethan Smithson, Noah McMeekan, Max Zahne," says Busch. This season, the boys went 4-2 in dual meets, and placed 4th at both the Conference, which was held at Moline High School, and Sectionals Meet, which was at Rock Island. Despite the major amount of competition and pressure the boys are under, they are always able to have a laugh. This ability to have fun while competing led the Rocks to a very successful season and close team. The Rocks look forward to putting in some hard work in their off season to get ready for next year.

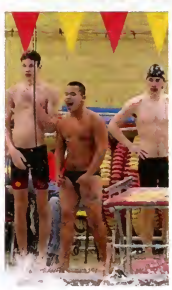

Blake Zahner

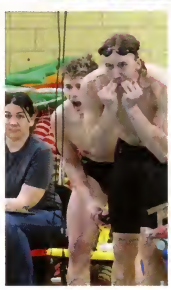
Cade Barnes

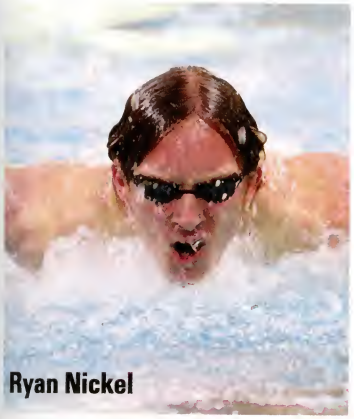
HERE the swimmers spend countless hours working to get better at what they do. On this journey, they build relationships and make memories with others and with coaches that will last a lifetime.










Ryan Nickel

Christ Soe

Kendrick Freeman

Peh Lay

Jay Richardson

Noah Rettig

Gavin Quinones

The 2019-2020 Swimming and Diving Team

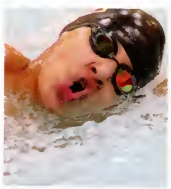
The Diving Team

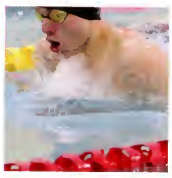
Jacksen Hansen

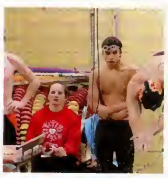
Pearce Lelonek

The 2019-2020 Diving Team consists of juniors, Jacksen Hansen, Pearce Lelonek, and senior, Eh Yee. They are coached by Andy Parer, and always have a good time diving together and supporting each other.

Eh Yee







Six freshmen, including Jude Rowell, Lucas Rettig, Cade Barnes, Xavier Lolli, Ethan Smithson, and Noah McMeekan, have done exceptionally well for their team as first year Varsity members.

Family matters

HERE

Building a Culture

For the second year, Coach Jacqueline Twing led the Lady Rocks Volleyball Team. The team ended their season 18-17 and 6-8 in the WB6. Coach Twing stated, "The Rocks were just a young team with four seniors, who all committed to help our program grow, and had two sophomore players step into the setter role and did a phenomenal job setting up their attackers, and also had a couple attackers, who grew in the off season, and started to terminate the ball." With two new teams joining the Conference, the Rocks knew they were going to have tougher competition this season, and knew they had to work harder, considering how young the team was. The Lady Rocks were led by senior, Raghen Walker, who was selected to play at the Iowa vs. Illinois All Star Volleyball Game, among the top prospects in the state. The girls will continue to work on their skills in the off season and prepare for their next season this coming summer.

Varsity Team

Back Row (L to R): Coach Parer, Manager Alec Straw, Emily Allison, Hannah Simmer, Coach Twing, Raghen Walker, Lexi Thompson, Coach Twing, Manager Kayla Depoorter

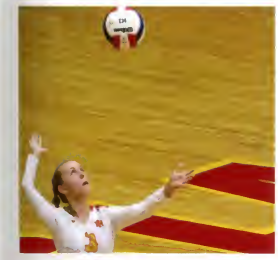
Front Row (L to R): Isabella Allison, Sophia Sigler, Ella Engholm, Madelynn Polito, Alivia Wright, Lauryn Dempsey, Kaitlyn Welsh, Cassidy DeMeyer

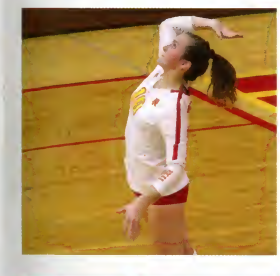
Pre-Game Hype

"I like to do my hair or get my hair done before a game. I also listen to my hype playlist."
- Alivia Wright

"I spend time surrounded by my teammates, talking and laughing. I also listen to music to hype myself up."
- Kaitlyn Welsh

"Before a game, I like to get hyped up by eating, because food puts me in a good mood, and I like to laugh with my teammates."
- Cassidy DeMeyer



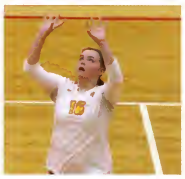


Sophomore Team
Back Row (L to R): Coach Nache, Madelynn Polito, Grace Gustafson, Norah Finley, Hanna Hultgren, Mekayla Welsh, Campbell Kelley, Maricela Churchill
Front Row (L to R): Madison Chastain, Ella Munday, Mackenzie Brokaw, Gabriella Taber, Ana Lampert, Bailey Proffitt

Freshman Team
Back Row (L to R): Coach Burkhead, Nevaeh Cunningham,
Aniya Cotton, Alexia Clark, Alysa Braud, Kaylee Plohr, Lily DeRudder
Front Row (L to R): Marcela Garcia, Alexis Carroll, Jena Martel, Nina Hamilton, Quinci Bumgarner, Sienna Mikaio, Kayla Rice, Kyleigh Hughes

Favorite Memory

"My favorite memory is staying up late making bracelets the night before a tournament."
Raghen Walker, 12

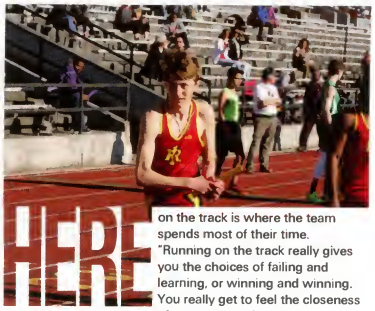


"My favorite memories are bus rides and pregame warm-ups."
Ella Engholm, 12

"My favorite memories are all the fun bus rides, and when we went paddle boarding for team bonding."
Lauryn Dempsey, 12

"My favorite memory was the overnight tournament because it was a good way to bond."
Hannah Simmer, 12

HERE on the court is where the team builds a family and a culture. Senior, Hannah Simmer, explains, "I would have never thought that I would become so close with these girls. They are now life long friends because of volleyball." Every time this team steps on the court, they are playing not only for themselves, but each other.



HERE on the track is where the team spends most of their time. "Running on the track really gives you the choices of failing and learning, or winning and winning. You really get to feel the closeness of everyone on the team, which really makes you feel a part of a family," stated Tony VanDeWalle.

The boys of the 2019 track season competed strongly from start to finish. After losing a significant number of seniors from the previous season, the incoming freshmen and returning athletes were all aware the team had big shoes to fill. Both seniors, Austin Taylor and Blake McKillip, were great examples of role models who set the standard for both the sprints and throws. Although the team struggled with numbers, there was never any fear they couldn't compete with bigger teams. Striving for the top three places was always a goal. Coach Lillis explains, "As a coach, my main focus for the athletes is to improve by the end of the season, not so much to win every meet." Based on Coach Lillis' years of experience and success, the Rocks can count on him and each other for another winning season in the years to come.

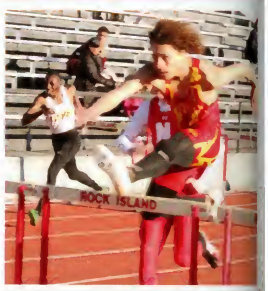
practice. dedication. patience. time. energy. motivate. grit.

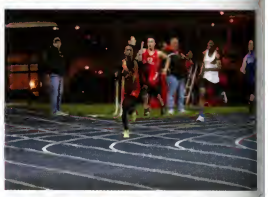
-STATE- QUALIFIERS

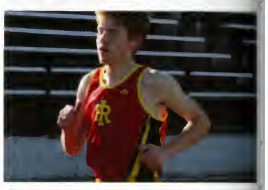
Samson Shukuru was a sprinter, jumper, and potential distance runner. He qualified for State in the long jump and placed in the top 20 with a jump of 22.05' as a sophomore.

Austin Taylor, a 2019 graduate, ended his final season successfully by placing 2nd at Sectionals in the 100. He then moved forward to State, and ranked 23rd with the time of 11.12.

Blake McKillip, a 2019 graduate, was always reliable when it came to points for the team. Blake totaled 80 Varsity points. Along with points, he managed to rank 14th in the state by the end of his Senior season in discus throwing.







Coach Lillis' 29th season as the Head Coach of the Rock

*"To be an **overachiever**, you have to be an over **believer**"*
- Usain Bolt

AWARD WINNERS

"From freshman year, I dropped nearly 10 seconds in the 300m Hurdles. From ending my freshman track season with a 48.7 to ending my sophomore season with a 41.4 was just as impressive to me as it was to the coaches. Going from a C hurdler to an A hurdler and competing with top Varsity runners at such a young age was such a great experience, and really taught me how to be competitive on a higher level."
- Johnnie Teague

After the 2018-19 Track season, Coach Lillis is in his 30th year of being head coach and couldn't have been happier to have Austin Taylor as an athlete. "Austin Taylor was always hard working and persistent. He always did pre-season and off-season training. His consistent positive attitude and work ethic were always a model for his teammates to follow."
- Coach Lillis

2019 BOYS TRACK & FIELD

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FRESHMAN

- Jay Richardson was moved up to the Varsity 4x4.

JUNIOR VARSITY

- Johnnie Teague won his first 1st place medal at the F/S Geneseo invite.
- Also at that meet, the 4x1 (Samson Shukuru, Darrell Woodson, JaMaie Lindsey, and Johnnie Teague) missed breaking the Sophomore record by .01 of a second.

VARSITY

- Samson Shukuru (Soph.) qualifies for State by placing second at Sectionals, as well as seniors Austin Taylor and Blake McKillip.
- Donovan Garro (Soph.) gets his mile under the 5 minute mark and make himself a tough competitor in the WB6.

ambition. compete. determination. teamwork. ROCKS

VARSITY LETTER WINNERS

"Every time I step on the track to compete, I'm not racing against the other team, I'm racing against my brother's records."

- JaMaie Lindsey

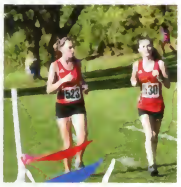
"My favorite part about track is knowing you are the best at winning the relays with your team and going against good competition."

- Darrel Woodson

"Being able to see myself improve on a Varsity level is something that I look forward to every track season."

- Donovan Garro

"My favorite memory was being able to hang out and meet new people, and beating my PR."
Emma Richy, 10



"My favorite memory was all of the team bondings and hanging out with the team."
Alex Lipe, 9

"My favorite memory from cross country is going to the Indiana dunes over the summer with the team."
Lainey Benson, 11

"My favorite memory was running with the team."
Makenzie Terry, 9

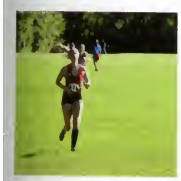
HERE the Lady Rocks spend their summers and falls running. They take on the work that many athletes back away from. They build their endurance and grow into a family.

The 2019 Lady Rocks Cross Country Team

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

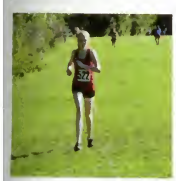
The Lady Rocks XC Team worked hard to be a tough competitor in the Conference!

Above Left: Victoria LaMay competes for the Rocks. LaMay has been running for Rocky for 2 years.
Above Right: Senior Jayla Hathorn completed her last season as a Rocky XC runner. During her time at Rocky, she competed for 4 years on Varsity.
Left: Junior Lainey Benson finished her second year on the XC team.



"From being a part of this team, I have learned how to be a better leader from being captain, and having to be in charge of some practices. I also have learned it's more important to have fun and not put too much stress on yourself."
Lainey Benson, 11

"Being on the cross country team, I have gained many friendships that I will also cherish forever. It was an amazing experience."
Jayla Hathorn, 12



"I have gotten great friendships and a love for running and competing out of cross country."
Victoria LaMay, 11

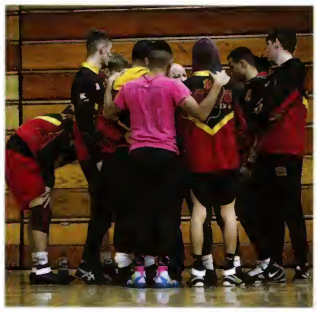
"I got in really good shape for wrestling season, but also the discipline of the sport to never give up when you have fallen."
Rebecca Ferguson, 10

Cross Country is known as being a very difficult, yet rewarding sport. When it's all said and done, crossing the finish line brings more joy to most girls than the placement they came in. There are no half times or time outs for these athletes during a race. The Girls' Cross Country Team ran hard and improved their personal running times throughout the season. Coach Susana Williams reflects on the season, and the hopes for the future with the many returning underclassmen, stating, "The girls know they will have some work to do for next year to climb our way up in Conference standings. The great thing is we have a young team of girls, who have the fire in them. They have personal and team goals, and I am looking forward to seeing them push each other." Many individual girls had outstanding performances, William explained, and even though the record was not always perfect, the team had many great moments. Conference was tough, this year, for the Girls' Cross Country Team, and with the addition to the two schools added on to the Conference, it did not make the challenge of winning any less difficult! The leaders of the team range in all grade levels. Williams explained, "The two captains, senior Jayla Hathorn and junior Lainey Benson each led in different ways. Jayla was a four year athlete, so the girls really looked to her on race days and showing them what to do. Lainey had a way of talking to teammates and encouraging them by getting them ready mentally to be ready to race. We also had some very dedicated girls who always put in 100% effort with no complaining. Mackenzie Meirhaeghe came in as a quiet, but excited freshman. She found her place, and was quickly our number one runner. She is going to be great for the team going forward. Another freshman was Maddie Maidak, who improved almost every single race, and ran every race as a Varsity runner. An exciting late addition to the team was also Mar'Cha Woodson, who had no idea if she would be able to run 3 miles, and ended up second on the team by Regionals." There are many girls who are working very hard to bring their times down to score for the team. With the ongoing improvements of each individual, and the well-rounded leadership throughout the team, the future for the Girls' Cross Country Team looks promising!

PIN IT TO WIN IT

VARSITY SQUAD

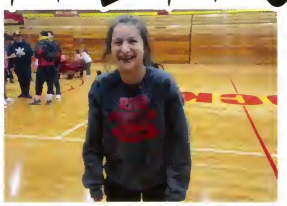
Fresh/Soph Team



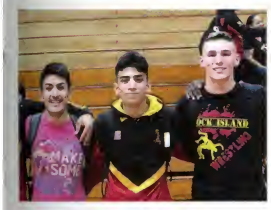
HERE is where the Wrestling Team puts in their hard work and dedication. It's on this mat that wrestlers give it all they've got, and show their talent and abilities. Here is where they fight, and never give up. Here is where they're victorious.

FAVORITE MEMORY

"Going out to eat with the guys after a long week of cutting weight, and beating Moline twice in a row."
- Aime Iranyibutse, 10



"I like winning. I'm just gonna be honest for this one time- I broke a dude's nose!"
- Rebecca Ferguson, 10



"Going to meets for tournaments with my teammates, and seeing everyone get dubs."
- Manuel Limon, 11

"Being able to wrestle Varsity and making it to the finals of the Lincoln Tournament last year as a freshman."
- Aoci Bernard, 10

"When I won my first tournament, I felt like a big man."
- Jaiden Vancoillie, 12

"My favorite memory was going to tournaments, and just hanging out."
- Jaylen Breackenridge, 11

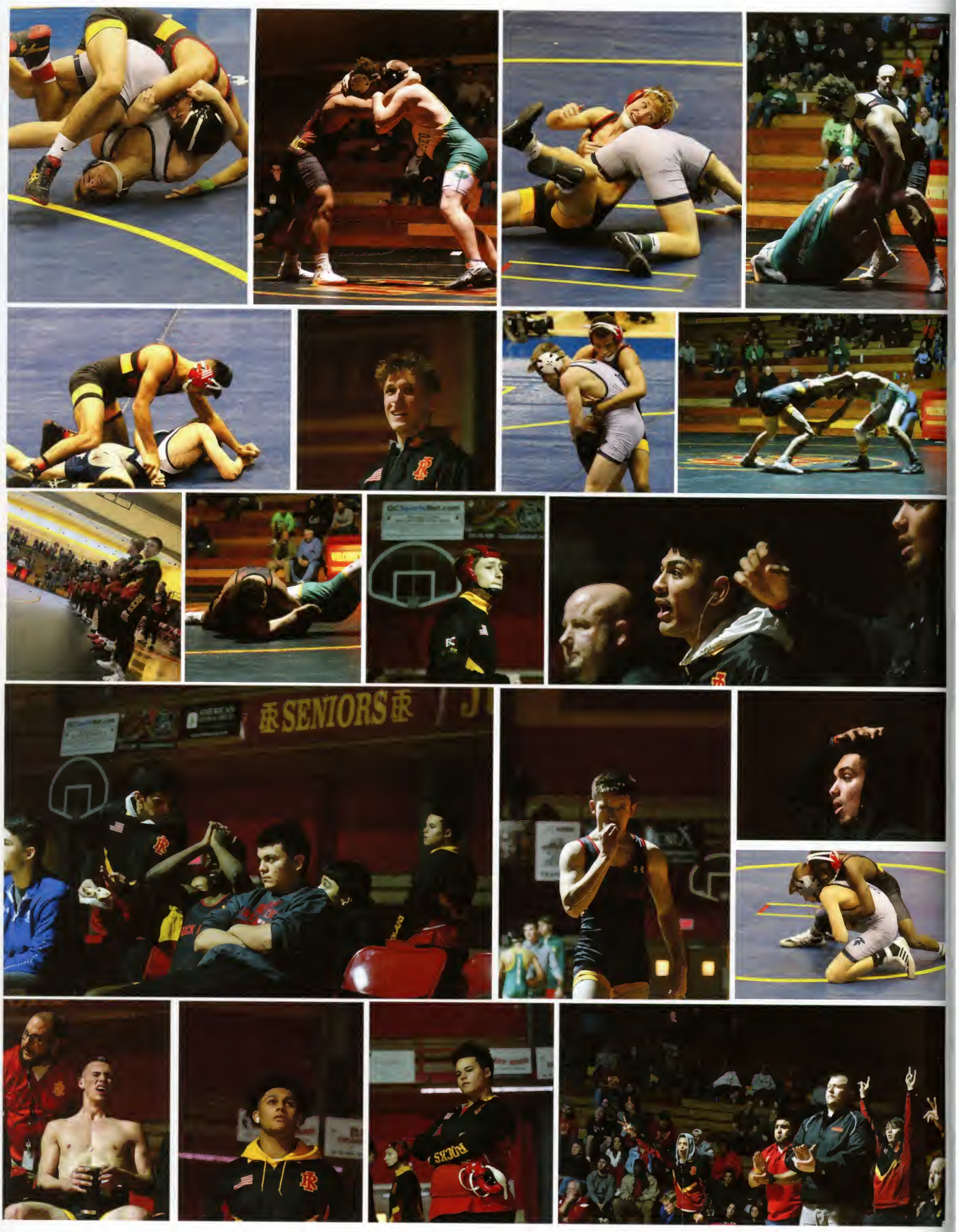
KEY SENIORS

Victor Guzman, a senior and Captain of the RIHS Wrestling Team, has been on the team for four years, but practiced with Varsity since he was in 7th grade. Victor says, "The best part of being on the team is building new friendships with everyone on the team."

Brandon Lawver, who's also a senior and Captain of the Wrestling Team, has been a part of the team since his freshman year. Brandon says, "The best part about being on the team is when everyone pushes you to do more, and helps each other reach their goals."

R TEAM TOWN

This year, the Rock Island High School Wrestling Team had a really great season. Their Conference record was 7-1, and they won Regionals, defeating 3 teams who were ranked higher than them. For the first time in 8 years, 12 wrestlers qualified for Sectionals and 2 qualified for State. "Our keys to success are always the same: Work hard each and every day. This includes all aspects of life. Work hard at wrestling, school, family, work, and as being a positive citizen in the community," Coach Stockwell says. Despite wrestling being an individual sport, teamwork is still an important aspect. "Teammates help you a lot because if you don't have good practice partners, then you won't gain anything from practice. So having good teammates is a big part of wrestling," Varsity wrestler and senior Victor Guzman, says. Guzman has been wrestling for a long time, and has been on the team all 4 years. He was also one of the wrestlers who qualified for State this year. Aoci Bernard, who also qualified for State, says, "Even during the 6 minutes that you are out on that mat alone, your team lifts you up. I could never have achieved the things that I have done if it hadn't been for my coaches and teammates." Overall, the team had a successful season and teamwork played a huge role in that.


SENIORS

Freshman Softball
Top Row (L to R): Coach Julie Hudnall, Janaya Mayfield, Jayla Upton, Tyana Jackson, Talieya Schappaugh, Makayla Neal
Bottom Row (L to R): Presley Mooney, Mallory Day, Mickenzie Wakeland, Madelyn Fentress, Alexis Reynolds

JV Team
Top Row (L to R): Coach Alyssa Rohm, Gabriella Taber, Campbell Kelley, Coach Martin Rohm, Samara Gay, Madysen Richardson, Coach Stacy Rohm
Bottom Row (L to R): Bailey Proffitt, Chloe Killian, Isabella Allison, Sydney Quinones, Delia Schwartz, Cassidy DeMeyer, Mackenzie Brokaw, Kaylea Rosseler

Grand Slam DREAMS

"My personal goal was to keep getting better, and to just do the little things right."
- Heather Motley, Grade 12

"My personal goal was to be the best team player I could be, and to take every advantage possible."
- Amelia Peña, Grade 12

"My personal goal this past season was to always do the little things right, and be the best teammate I could be."
- Lauryn Dempsey, Grade 12

"My goal this past season was to just do my best to contribute to the team."
- Taylor Pannell, Grade 10

The Story Of The LADY ROCKS

The Rock Island Lady Rocks Softball Team came into the season with high hopes. The team went 28-5, became Conference Champions for the third year in a row, and won Regionals for the second year in a row. Coach Chris Allison was really excited going into the season, knowing his girls were going to accomplish a lot, but would also have challenges to "knock it out of the park," Allison stated. "We encountered the pressure from coming off a State Championship the year before. There was added pressure throughout the season from outside. The team expected the challenge from day one, and worked hard to get better every day," Allison explained. The Lady Rocks created many good memories this past year. "To see these young ladies come to work and get better each day was a great memory to keep in my heart. The ladies in the softball program care about each other from freshmen to seniors. It is a special culture that they have created," noted Coach Allison.

HERE at the Frances Willard Field, the team becomes a family.

SOFTBALL SPOTLIGHT

Ashley Peters was the leader in the circle with 20 wins, and batted a .535 batting average. She was also team captain for the season.

Lauryn Stegall tied for the lead in home runs. She is also the all-time leading HR hitter at Rocky.

Delaney Kelley had a great season at the plate and in the field. She had over 15 doubles. She was also named team captain.

Makenna Carothers had a great year at the plate. She batted over .400 and had 3 home runs with 12 doubles. She is another young lady that will lead the team in the future.

Mackenzie Melody hit 3 home runs this year and batted over .300 this season.

2019 VARSITY LADY ROCKS

Top Row: Coach Chris Allison, Madison Michaels, Delaney Kelley, Makenna Carothers, Kelsey Freeman, Lauryn Dempsey, and Coach Debbie Peters

Middle Row: Coach Bailey Allison, Heather Motley, Abigail Bush, Taylor Pannell, Amelia Peña, Madalynn Brummit, and Coach Morgan Twing

Bottom Row: Manager Johnae Angel, Mackenzie Melody, Lauryn Stegall, Ashley Peters, and Emma Spurgetis

HERE

is where history is made. On this pitch is where the Rock Island Varsity Soccer Team became the very first boys team to win the outright title as Conference Champs. "A family is what it takes," Coach Almanza says about his team's historic success, and a family is what they are.

ONE TEAM DREAM

Coach Rudy Almanza takes on the role as being the new Head Coach of the Varsity Boys Soccer Team this season.

What does being a Varsity Captain mean to you?

"Being a captain, to me, is a privilege. To lead my team to every game of the season is a blessing, and will not be taken for granted."
- Isaac Almanza

"Being a captain means a lot to me because it is such a good opportunity to show off some of my leadership skills and prove I can handle the heat."
- Osvaldo Perez

"Taking on more responsibility and being a leader, and to set an example for underclassmen, and just being consistent, caring, and courageous."
- Ceu Bik

This year, at Rock Island High School, the Boys Soccer Team left their mark by winning Regionals for the first time in Rocky history. After their big victory against Quincy, where they won Conference with the outright title, the Rocks did not think their season could possibly get any better. However, they continued making history by winning Regionals. This victory would not have been possible without all the hard work they put in. "The key to success is putting in the off season work. Strength and conditioning was one of the most important things for us. Without the conditioning and that mental challenge, I don't think a lot of those boys would've pushed themselves," Coach Rudy Almanza stated. Isaac Almanza, a senior captain, says, "I am very proud of my teammates and I for making history two times this year, and I feel like the key to our success is our amazing team chemistry that we have with each other." Overall, it seems that the key to the team's success was their hard work ethic and their amazing teamwork.

Varsity Team

Back Row (L to R): Coach David Braud, Alejandro Torres, Zachary Beckman, Thar Myint, Coach Koffi Gbenyo, Isaiah Kerr, Diego Ruiz, Logan Pearce
Middle Row (L to R): Hae Law Lar Thaw, Nsengiyumva Landry, Jake Brandt, Elale Peter Kimba, Irakoze Emery, Kyle Gant, Jordan Rice, Murad Ahmed, Isaac Almanza, Coach Rudy Almanza
Front Row (L to R): Amarah Priddy, Edwin Beltran, Migambi Athanas, Genaro Carrillo, Michael Machuca, Ben Samuelson, Libio Vargas, Ceu Bik Lian, Darian Harding

JV Team

Back Row (L to R): Coach David Braud, Hussein Farhan, Jesus Hernandez, Juan Ibarra, Coach Koffi Gbenyo, Htoo Law La Shee, Reponse Muhoza, Kisubi Wilondja, Omar Marceleno-Alba
Middle Row (L to R): Willy Niyonzima, Cohen Crawford, Paulo Josefu, Samson Shukuru, Avery Donaldson, Jose Mendez, Eh Ku, Miguel Alba, Coach Rudy Almanza
Front Row (L to R): Amarah Priddy, Niyonkuru Cornelio, Wah Eh Soe, Johnny San, Ta Nay Moo, Donavin Caston, Maung Loe, Hae Law Lar Thar

Freshman Team

Back Row (L to R): Hae Law Lar Thaw, Coach David Braud, Logan Morris, Jaron Morris, Coach Koffi Gbenyo, Lucas Hansen, Seth Strandberg, Jared Hernandez, Coach Rudy Almanza
Middle Row (L to R): Eh Gay, Nehemiah Rodriguez, Tluang Thang, Rafael Lopez
Front Row (L to R): Aidan Henderson, Jesus Alba, Christ Soe, Di Sae Khu, Nathan Hendrickx, Lamarian Jackson

Play Hard

Have Fun

"My favorite memory was becoming a striker and scoring a couple goals."
- Libio Vargas

"We have a great team chemistry. We always help each other out whenever someone needs it."
- Logan Pearce

"My favorite memory of the soccer season was getting to know the team on and off the field, and growing a strong bond."
- Peter Kimba

"My favorite moment is going undefeated and winning Conference my senior year."
- Michael Machuca

"Last season, we went to Burlington for a tournament, and it was so much fun hanging with all the mangers and coaches."
- Darian Harding and Victoria Thaw

"Golf was a really fun experience and I made some amazing friends."

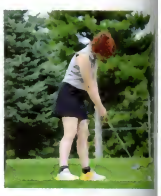
Josie Pennington, 12

"I'm so happy to have spent this season with such wonderful teammates. I'm sad to see a couple of them go, but these memories I've made have been so amazing."

Charly Heber-Spates, 11

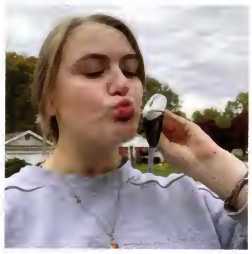
"This year has been great, making Sectionals as a team and ending the season with teammates that I can call good friends."

Bailey Tripilas, 12



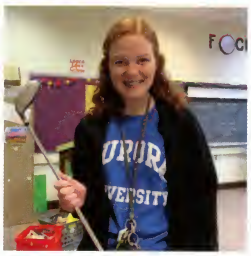
Favorite Club?

5 Iron
Charly Heber-Spates, Junior



7 Iron
Josie Pennington, Senior

3 Wood
Bailey Tripilas, Senior



SEASON We Will Never— FORE get

The Lady Rocks finished their season 8-14 in dual, triangular, and quad meets. They placed 4th at their Conference Meet. The team placed 3rd in their Regional Meet, allowing them to advance to Sectionals as a team for the first time since 2011. Coach Thompson says her favorite memory was, "Being able to take the whole team to Sectionals, rather than just one or two individuals."

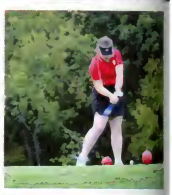
The girls had a successful season, but Thompson stated that they encountered challenges including, "Staying consistent with our scores throughout the season, but we practiced every day to improve our skills."

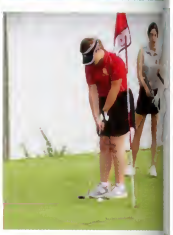
The senior golfers, Emma Beierlein, Josie Pennington, and Bailey Tripilas were considered to be the team leaders by Thompson. She noted that they did this, "By setting good examples for the younger players, by being team players, being on time, good sportsmanship, and displaying all the traits that make a person a good teammate."

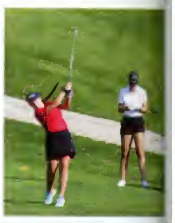
At the number one spot, golfer Josie Pennington, made a big impact on the team. Thompson says, "Pennington finished the season the strongest by being named to the Western Big 6 All Conference Team and just missed being a meet medalist at the Regional Tournament after a sudden death playoff hole to declare the winner. She was also a top 10 finisher at the Geneseo Invitational." She also added, "All the girls had an impact on the team one way or another throughout the season."

Other than the team's Sectional accomplishment, they placed 3rd at the Rock Falls Invitational. Thompson said, "We did well at all the invitationals we participated in this season." She also added, "At the Geneseo Invitational, all the girls posted personal best scores that day."

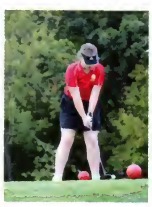
This year, the team had greater success than they have in the past. By qualifying for Sectionals, beating personal scores, and winning 3rd place at Rock Falls, the Lady Rocks have set up a bright future for the next generation of Rocky golfers.

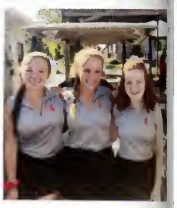






HERE at the golf course is where the strongest bonds are made. Emma Beierlein says, "I am happy to be a part of a team that feels like a family."





"I am thankful to have been a part of this team for 3 years. It has given me many memories and experiences I will keep forever."

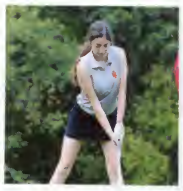
Emma Beierlein, 12

"My favorite memory was when we were at Regionals and we qualified for Sectionals and got super happy and freaked out."

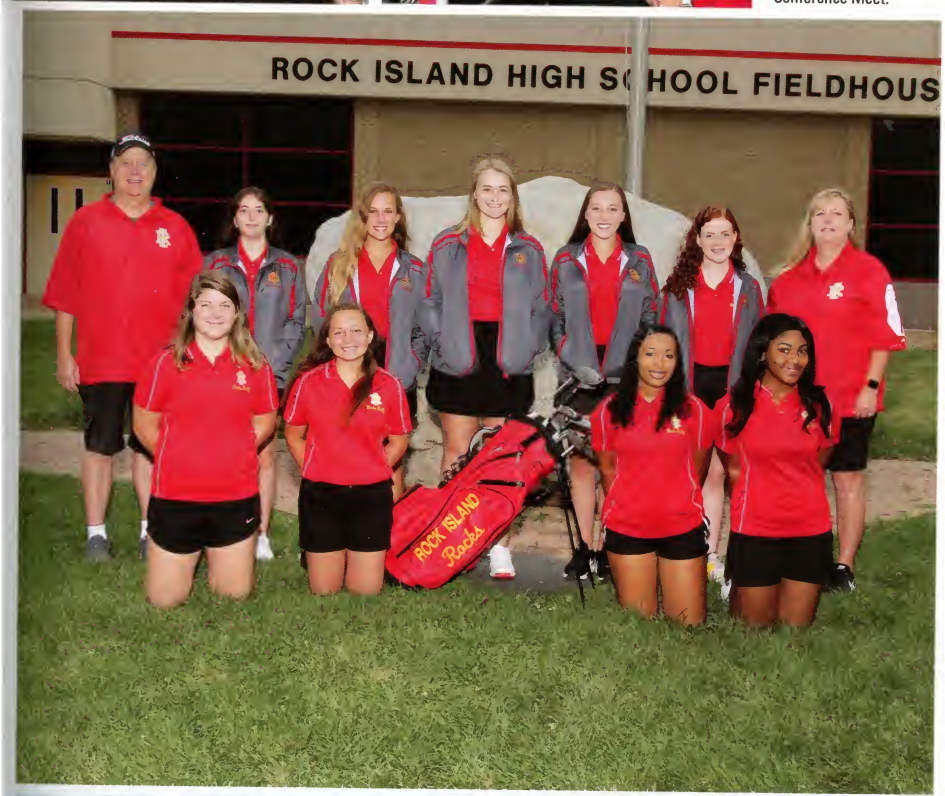
Payton Aschemann, 9

"Golf is a great sport! The atmosphere is calm and nature oriented. It can get competitive, and I believe that is what makes it great."

Abbi Rasmussen, 11



Far Left: Seniors, Josie Pennington, Emma Beierlein, and Bailey Tripilas pose for a picture while waiting for results in a meet against Galesburg.
Left: Varsity poses for a picture on golf carts after they competed in the Conference Meet.



"Nards!"
- Charly Heber-Spates

"You've gotta be kidding!"
- Josie Pennington

sighhhhh
- Abbi Rasmussen

Well that went the wrong way."
- Payton Aschemann

"Oh crap!"
- Bailey Triplias

Ughh it always does that."
- Emma Beierlein

"Next time!"
- Edie Crayne

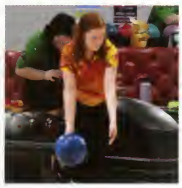
Not Everyone is Perfect.

RI Golfers explain their statements of frustration on the course

MEET THE SENIORS

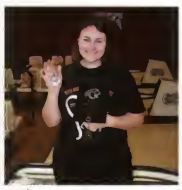
Heather Motley

"It has meant a lot . It has helped me get through tough times, and it has always been a part of my life."



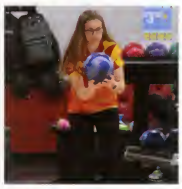
Bailey Tripilas

"Bowling has been a love I have had since I was six, when I started. Throughout the year, my love for the sport has grown tremendously, and I am so glad I get to continue it into college. It has gotten me through many hard times because whenever I bowl, all my stress melts away."



Kelsey Freeman

"Bowling has meant everything to me throughout the years. From every practice to every game I bowled, I enjoyed growing with my teammates, and growing as an individual. Bowling has taught me to be patient, and if you work hard, you can achieve anything you want."



Payton Fuller

"Bowling has grown to mean more than I had ever expected. There is no better pain reliever than bowling a couple games with the team."

Caresse Murphy

"It has meant everything to me. It gave me something to look forward to. It also gave me the opportunity to meet and become close with my teammates."

Elyse O'Brien

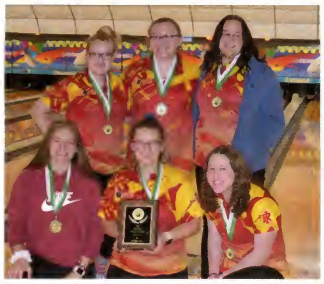
"Bowling was my fun sport, though I still played it competitively. It is nice to not have the pressure of needing to be the best."

Clarissa Lopez

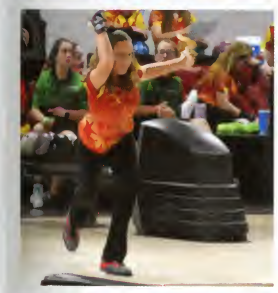
"It is a great team. Everyone is so friendly and supportive, always encouraging each other to stay positive, and try their best. I have made some of my best high school memories at bowling, and some of my best friends. I am glad to see it grow in members over the years, so I know it will keep going strong."

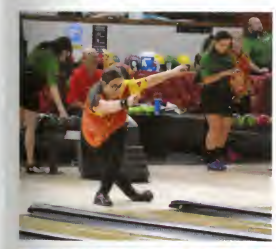
Angelina Cortez

"This experience has let me meet new people and step out of my comfort zone."



HERE at Backyard Bowl, the Girls' Bowling Team works together and practices their technique to prepare for the upcoming tournaments and dual meets. "Backyard helps me stay consistent on the lanes," Sarah Stevanovic stated. These lanes have helped the ladies keep their season undefeated.





Rolling TO STATE

The Girls' Bowling Team has accomplished a lot of goals this season. From an undefeated season for both Varsity and JV, to qualifying for State after ten years of not qualifying as a team, these girls have a lot to be proud of. "Having an undefeated dual season in both Varsity and JV was icing on the cake," Coach Jim Braet stated. The last time that the girls team had an undefeated season was back in 1995, and it was the only other time that the team was undefeated.

The team finished out the season by winning the Western Big 6 and Regionals. "It was awesome to win Western Big 6 because we have not done it since the 1980's, and we won by a lot, which was nice," stated Kelsey Freeman. The team won the Western Big 6 by around 300 pins. "It was amazing, especially because we've been waiting for it for so long," Heather Motley said.

Another goal that the girls accomplished was qualifying for State. The last two years that the team was trying to qualify, they were only off by a few pins. "It was great because I have been waiting for this for 4 years, and I was so proud of my team for being able to make it on," Motley stated. The team worked together and advanced on to the second day of State Finals. "The team finished out on a good note by making the top 12 teams out of the whole state," Sarah Stevanovic stated.

TEAM STANDINGS

TOURNAMENTS

Rock Island Invite	4th	5418
Palatine Invite	2nd	5491
United Township	1st	5522
Geneseo	1st	5272
Plainfield South	7th	5471
Oswego	5th	5649
Rockford Guilford	3rd	5881
Dixon	4th	5544
Western Big Six	1st	5602
Regionals	1st	5760
Sectionals	4th	5388
State	8th	11177

MEETS

Geneseo	3197
Moline	3526
Sterling	3159
United Township	3011
Galesburg	3502
Moline	3365
Geneseo	3512
Sterling	3376
Galesburg	2712
United Township	3043
Dixon	3046

Heather Motley- "It is nice to be there for the girls if they need anything, and they know they can come to me if they need something."

Kelsey Freeman- "Being a captain means that you can lead your team, pick them up when they are down, and push them to try their best, even when they feel they are at their worst."

Bailey Tripilas- "Being captain is a responsibility I am glad I got to have. You have to make sure you're keeping the team up beat and excited. You also have to make sure the team is on task and doing what we are supposed to be. Being captain is a great experience that I am glad I got to have."

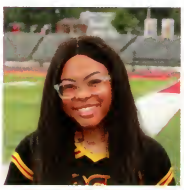
OUR SENIORS SAY

"Cheerleading has taught me how to be more outgoing and work hard to get something done, while keeping a positive attitude."
Ashley Johnson

"Being a cheerleader to me, means supporting my school, getting the crowd excited, and encouraging the team to win."
Jayliyah Lewis

"Cheerleading has taught me how to be more social when meeting new people and making new friends."
Miranda Banks

"Cheerleading made me a better person, since everyone is always watching you and all eyes are on you, it makes you want to be better."
Jada Gay



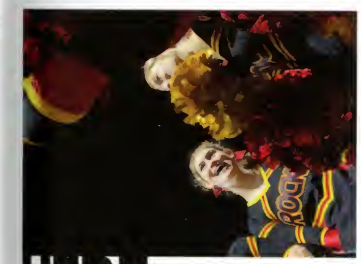
"Cheerleading taught me how to be more of a team player. I like knowing that there are kids that look up to me, and it's helped me become the person I am today."
Kailyn Sanders

Varsity Squad
Top Row: Mariyam Talybova, Rachel Loomis, Ashley Johnson, Donnie Gingry, Miranda Banks, Zaide Rivera, Mackenzie Walker-Lee
Middle Row: Emily Hernandez, Spiret Rogers, Serah Waqa, Jayliyah Lewis, Jada Gay
Bottom Row: Madison Keever, Maggie Honeycutt, Kailyn Sanders, Adria Scott, Tavia Johnson

JV Squad
Top Row: Nevaeh Counts-Jones, Ma'Kayla Steele, Avery Brandt, Consuela Chapman, Mackenzie Kreger, Jaiden Womack, Alexa Avalos
Middle Row: Courtney Wixom, Francisca Ibarra
Bottom Row: Savannah Harding, Farrah Kraklow

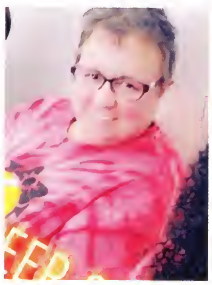
Freshman Squad
Top Row: Anna Wright, Kiley Harrell, Emily Myers, Isabelle Roelens
Middle Row: Kaiya Mckinley, Mariela DeMeyer, McKenzie Houston
Bottom Row: Kimora Wright, Camryn Milefchik

All The Way Red, Gold All The Way



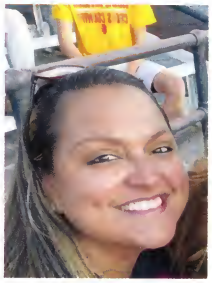
HERE to be a cheerleader means raising as much spirit as possible. It means being positive, even when the game is getting tough. For senior cheerleaders Ashley Johnson, Jayliyah Lewis, Miranda Banks, Jada Gay, and Kailyn Sanders, being a cheerleader has many different meanings. Being a cheerleader "taught me how to be a team player," says Senior Kailyn Sanders. Cheering has taught the girls that you have to try your best to be as positive as possible, "Since everyone is watching, and all eyes are on you," says Jada Gay. Spirit is the most important detail. It's important when your team is losing, and it is your job as a cheerleader to encourage the football team to turn their attitudes around if the game is going south. Jayliyah Lewis says she has loved cheering for Rocky because she, "Loves supporting her school and encouraging the team to win the game!"

"My favorite part of coaching is seeing the growth of each of the girls from freshman to senior year, and how you have matured and are ready to move on to the next phase of your lives."
Betsy Larson, Head Coach



"My favorite part of coaching is stunting. I love seeing the moment when it clicks in their heads, the 'ah-ha' moment."
Veda Rossi, Freshman Coach

"My favorite part of coaching is establishing the relationship with the younger generation, and creating new traditions with new girls."
Patricia Gallegos, Varsity & JV Coach



"My favorite part is helping choreograph the routines for Homecoming and Senior Nights. "
Kavasia Washington, Varsity & JV Coach

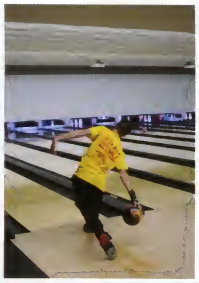
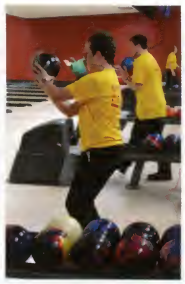
MEET THE COACHES

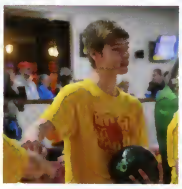
ROLLING INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS

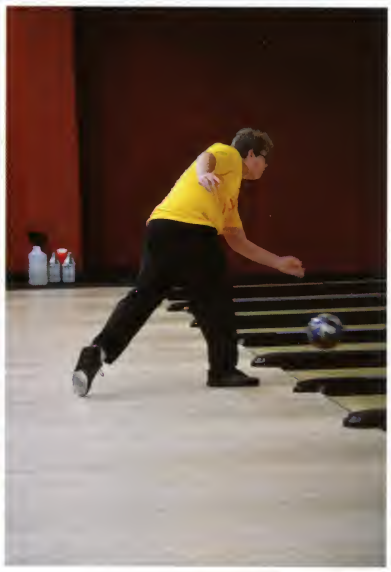
This year, Rocky's Boys' Bowling Team had a historic season. It was the first ever boys' season in school history. The inaugural season was a long time coming for Coach Ethan Gordon. "My parents and others tried to get the bowling team back when I was in high school, and it just was not going to happen," stated Coach Ethan Gordon.

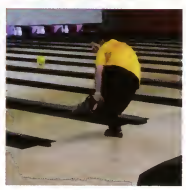
Their record this year was 3 wins and 5 losses, but there were some scrimmage dual meets also. There were only two tournaments that the boys competed at, one being Regionals, where Kaden Witt ended up qualifying for Sectionals. When the boys were headed to a meet, they would all talk about their goals that they want to meet. "We would try to get in the right mental state for competition," Demetrius Gilkey said.

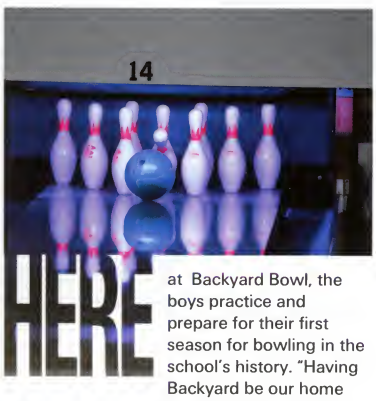
Being a part of the first every boys' team means a lot to the boys. "It really means a lot to be on the bowling team. I did not think Rocky would ever get a bowling team, and the environment that it had was really nice," stated Austin Muller. Gilkey stated, "Being a part of the bowling team gave me something fun to do during the winter. I enjoyed it." Some people joined bowling just for the experience. "It meant a lot just to be part of something and getting better as a team," Gage Kelley stated.



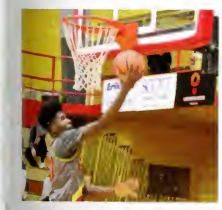






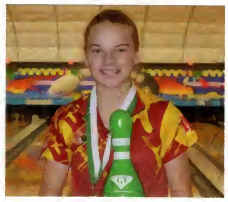
HERE at Backyard Bowl, the boys practice and prepare for their first season for bowling in the school's history. "Having Backyard be our home alley, that means I can improve my consistency on the lanes," stated Demetrius Gilkey.

Back Row: Erik Maston, Demetrius Gilkey, Evan Willis, Michael Manthe, Coach Gordon. Middle Row: Richard Zeroth, Hunter Melody, Austin Muller, Carlos Cervantes, Aden Farrell. Front Row: Mason Detert, Jacob Kern, Jamere Burrage, Austin Dahlgren.

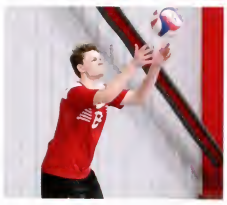


Malachi Key
Basketball

Joseph Dilulio
Baseball
Black Hawk
College

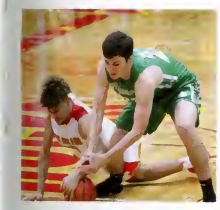


Heather Motley
Bowling
St. Ambrose



Alec Straw
Volleyball
Augustana

Madelynn
DePover
Swimming



Taurean Holtam
Basketball

Victor Guzman
Wrestling

Payton Fuller
Football Manager
St. Ambrose

Tony
VanDeWalle
XC
Wartburg

Jayden Upton
Football

Andrew McDuffy
Basketball

Jayla Hathorn
Track

Bailey Tripilas
Bowling
St. Ambrose

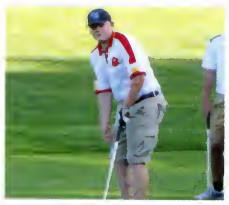
Raghen Walker
Volleyball

Vincent Esposito
Baseball
UIS

Donovan Rogers
Football
McKendree
University

Hannah Simmer
Basketball

Isaac Almanza
Soccer

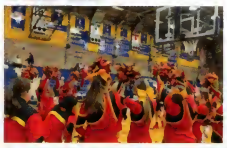


Nathan Steinbeck
Golf
Black Hawk
College

Solomon
Gustafson
Basketball
Quincy University

SIGNING SENIORS

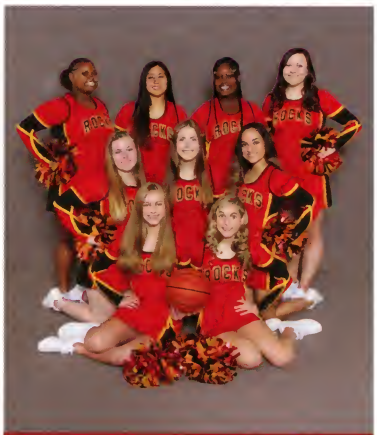
GIRLS BASKETBALL



As Tristan Lambert and Kailyn Sanders finish their last year cheering, they start to reflect on what cheer has done for them. Tristan started cheer in her junior year, where Kailyn has cheered all four years. Both have loved their time as Rocky Cheerleaders, and worked hard to be role models for the younger generations of RIHS Cheerleaders.

JV Squad

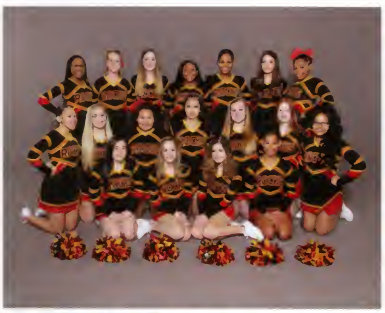
Top Row: Jaiden Womack, McKenzie Houston, Kaiya McKinley
Middle Row: Mackenzie Kreger, Farrah Kraklow
Bottom Row: Kenzie Crimmins, Mallory Day, Francisca Ibarra



Varsity Squad

Top Row: Spiret Rogers, Zaide Rivera, Irambona Jusele, Tristan Lambert
Middle Row: Alexya Stephens, Kailyn Sanders, Mariyam Talybova
Bottom Row: Miranda Igo, Madison Keever
Not Pictured: Brooke Farrance

HERE in the Lady Rocks' gym, the spirit is high and the noise level is even higher. Being a cheerleader means supporting the girls on the team at all times. You become a family that has the same motive, to work hard and play hard. You make so many memories, your life literally becomes cheerleading. You spend most of your Saturdays driving 3 to 4 hours away. With as much time as you put into the season, it is hard not to become a family.

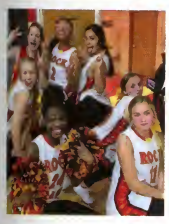


Competitive Cheer

FRESHMEN SQUAD

Top Row: Emily Myers, Alexandria Lipe
Middle Row: Camryn Milefchik, Ashanti Williams, Kiley Harrell
Bottom Row: Anna Wright, Kimora Wright

BOYS BASKETBALL



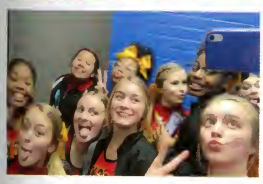
Each game throughout the regular basketball season for the boys has proven to be a great representation of the strength of the Cheer Team, along with the spirit the school has. The Boys Basketball Cheerleaders followed each theme for the Western Big 6 games, creating a more positive and fun environment for themselves and the boys basketball fans!

JV Squad

Top Row (L to R): Miranda Banks, Raniese Muskeyvalley, Jada Gay
Middle Row (L to R): Ashley Johnson, Rachel Loomis, Yvette Perez-Gomez, Mackenzie Walker-Lee, Serah Waqa
Bottom Row (L to R): Emily Hernandez, Rachel Wangler

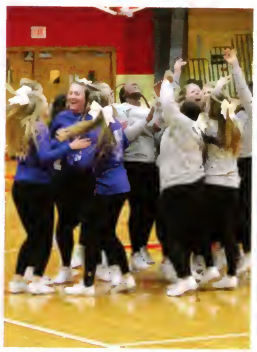
Top Row (L to R): Jayla Upton, Nevaeh Counts-Jones, Ella Munday, Ma'Kayla Steele
Middle Row (L to R): Courtney Wixom, Camryn Milefchik
Bottom Row (L to R): Haley Blair, Savannah Harding, Avery Brandt

Varsity Squad

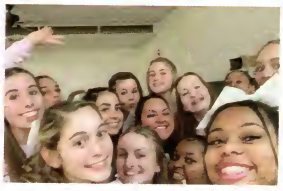


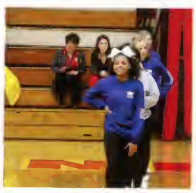
"You never understand the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

Rather than doing two separate senior night dances, the Rock Island Cheerleading Squads combined to perform the same dance that they will perform at both the Girls Basketball Senior Night and the Boys Basketball Senior Night. This starts a new Senior Night tradition for the Lady Rocks!



SENIOR NIGHT





What XC Means To Me

Cross Country athletes explain what the sport means to them and what their favorite part of this sport is.

"My favorite thing about Cross Country is that I improve every day, and at every meet, I get a chance to show my improvement."
Mason Love, Junior

"Cross Country for me is all about being relaxed in times of tension."
Luke VanDeWalle, Sophomore

"My favorite thing about Coss Country is the bus rides from and to meets. My teammates make the sport so fun!"
Joe Brune, Sophomore

Back Row (L to R): J. Hansen, D. Garro, J. Wyers, A. Meirhaeghe, J. Knuth, E. Muhoza, M. Love
Middle Row (L to R): B. Oliver, T. VanDeWalle, B. Zahner, M. Detert, Q. Nettles, J. Brune, S. Taw
First Row (L to R): R. Ullrick, L. VanDeWalle, J. Voigt, I. Horice, J. Baker, A. Mashimango, N. Hendrickx

HERE at the starting line is where all the runners prepare themselves to run, not only physically, but mentally. "When at the starting line, my head just runs over the strategy I planned out the night before again and again. I always seem to get a queasy feeling in my stomach and use the emotions to get me through the race," described Tony VanDeWalle. Here at the starting line is also where all the team gathers to warm up right before the gun is shot into the air to begin the race.

"To give anything but your best is to sacrifice the gift."
Tony VanDeWalle

"Run fast, then run faster. The job's never done."
Austin Meirhaeghe

"We're not done until we're finished."
Aminia Mashimango

"Push through it!"
Jacob Wyers

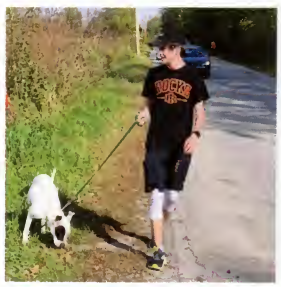
Team Leaders

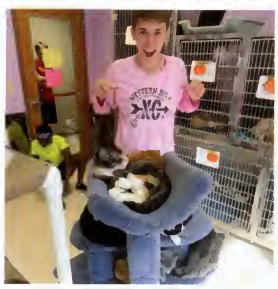
After running cross country all four years of their high school careers, these seniors now play the role of being team leaders and setting great examples for the younger runners, who look up to them.

Running Rocks

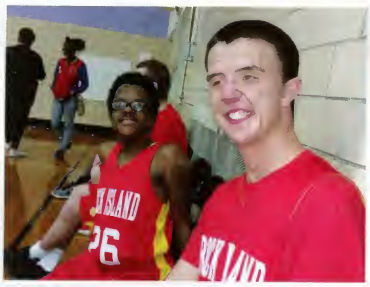
The 2019-2020 season began with the Rocks finishing fourth out of eight teams in the season opening meet at Moline. They then finished third out of eight teams at the Rock Island Invite, which was the highlight of their season. The team relied on Donovan Garro, Espoir Muhoza, Austin Meirhaeghe, and Tony VanDeWalle as their team leaders. There were also a good number of newcomers who really impacted the team. "Jonathan Knuth had a solid season for us. Jacksen Hansen showed some growth and pushed close to a top seven spot. Jay Richardson ran cross country for the first time, and really showed some promise in competitions," added Coach Williams. Overall, throughout Varsity and Junior Varsity, the team had a great group of runners, who were willing to push themselves this season.

Junior VARSITY





Sam Woodhouse-Wiley, a superviser of QC Paws and a good friend of Cross Country Coach, Mr. Williams, let the team volunteer and spend time with the animals for one of their workouts. "The dogs were great! It was so much fun. We even got to hang out with the cats for awhile, and a lot us got really close with the animals over the short time," explained Joe Brune. The Cross Country Team had blast and were very thankful for the opportunity.



From October to March, the team has 10 games, competing around Illinois. They represent Rock Island as they compete in Byron, Canton, East Moline and Moline.

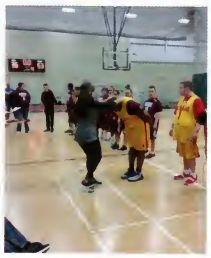
SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS

With a crowd of cheering fans, the Rock Island Special Olympics Team plays with Rocky pride. For the players, "Being on the team has given the players a chance to feel what it's like to be a team player," said Mrs. Martens.

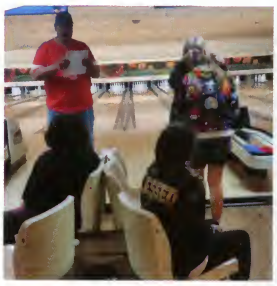
Not only do they have their own schedule, playing other teams in Illinois, but they play during the Rocky Boys' home games. "Coach Sigel is always looking for a way for his team to encourage the Special Olympics Team," Mrs. Martens said.

Mrs. Martens encourages all students to come to the games and congratulate the players when they see them at school in the hall or cafeteria.

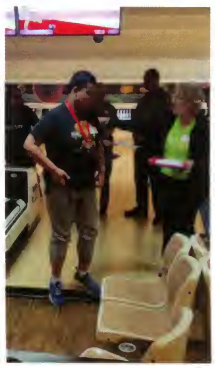
HERE we come together as a team. With hard work and good spirits, we compete and wear Rock Island jerseys with pride. Between the laughs, we are on the court or in the bowling alley practicing for big games. At practice, "They work on basketball skills and their plays," described Mrs. Martens.



HAVING A BALL



After a great season by all players, Drew DeMarlie and Shawn Harrison competed at the Special Olympics Bowling State Championship. The team practices at QC Family Entertainment once a week and travels around Illinois for competitions. The hard work put in by all players was well received, as they were able to support two Rocky students in a large competition.



HERE

at Rocky, after the bell rings, dismissing everyone, you make your way to the place you feel at home. Whether you are rehearsing for your play or discussing how you can make a difference in the world with the Rocky Riveters, these activities have devoured your high school experience. You have found your home along with your friends in SOUP Club. You might have found your passion through Environmental Action Club, or by doing service projects with Key Club. Your confidence was found while singing out in choir and musical. Maybe the Homecoming decorations were handmade by you and your friends in Student Council. You built new relationships, you shaped the school year, and you found your home through these extra-curriculars that are so much more than an additional activity, but where you belong.

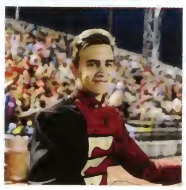
If You
Don't Fight
For ALL Women
You Fight For
NO
Women

Fond *Memories*

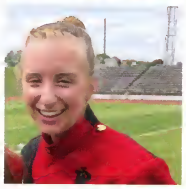
Marching Band members look back on their favorite memories of the 2019 season.

"Marching Band has been filled with memories, and my favorite memory this year has been hanging out at the home games and performing on our home field."
Jay Richardson, Sophomore

"My favorite memory from band this year was impersonating Struss on Director Day during summer band camp."
Ethan Kopplin, Senior



"Performing an amazing show at ISU, and seeing the looks on people's faces as we perform, and coming out of the stadium, knowing we performed our best show!"
Eleanor Blew, Junior



"Going to Downer's Grove South, sitting with friends, and making new ones from other bands."
Gabe Nightingale, Junior

"My favorite memory was sitting on a bus at 2am!"
Miranda Clark, Freshman

The title of the 2019 Pride of Rock Island Marching Band's show is "To Find My Soul." It is based around the idea of leaving the stress and bustle of city life behind to find yourself in nature. The show takes inspiration from the life of John Muir, an environmentalist and author. The quote, "So into the forest I go, to lose my mind, to find my soul" was the main inspiration that can be heard several times during the show. In addition to this, the quote, "Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt," is heard in the show. The main takeaway from watching this year's show is, "The idea of getting away from the world, the noise, the commotion, the constant bombardment of social media and technology," according to Mr. Carlin.

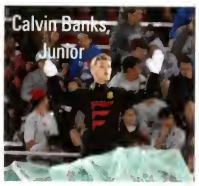
In addition to marching in parades and at football games, the band traveled as far as Indiana to perform in competitions. Their first competition was September 14th in Morton, IL, in which they placed 4th in their class. Next, they went to Dunlap, IL on the 28th of September, and got 2nd place in their class, with the caption award of "Best Percussion." On October 12th, the band competed in Downer's Grove, IL, where they placed 6th in Preliminary competitions and 8th in Finals. On October 19th, the band played at Illinois State University in Normal, IL, and got 3rd in their class. To end the season, the band traveled to Indianapolis on October 25-27th for the Bands of America Competition, at which they scored a 70.775. The Marching Band got 15th place out of 26 bands in their class, and 55th place out of 84 bands, overall.

Overall, the band had a meaningful season. "I thought the season was fantastic, overall. It had its up and downs, but at the end, it was great," Carlin said. The Rock Island High School Marching Band enjoyed "finding" their "souls."

Time to Get on The Bus The Bus The Bus

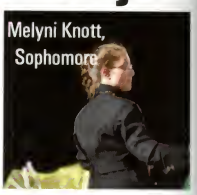
The Marching Band is known for traveling far and wide for competitions. Whether they go as close as an hour and a half to Morton, IL, or five hours to Indianapolis, IN, the bus is always a great spot to make unforgettable memories.

"It's a very unique experience that you have to grow into. The challenges are worth it for the end product."



"It's fun, but a lot of hard work. I make myself a better leader, while pushing my band to its best abilities."

Meet *The* Majors



"Being Drum Major is really important to me. Most of the time, I have no idea what I'm doing!"

Here We Find Our Souls

SENIORS TAKE THE LEAD

Ellie Maranda, Woodwind Captain
"I enjoy being a student leader because I love helping and leading people."

Ryan Nickel, Brass Captain
"A leader must be responsible, knowledgeable, and approachable."

Larissa Pothoven, Flute Section Leader
"I enjoy being able to help others and see them improve throughout the season."

Bailey Tripilas, Clarinet Section Leader
"Being a student leader teaches me responsibility and gives me tools for the future."

Ethan Kirkpatrick, Saxophone Section Leader
"I love being a section leader. Helping people is one of my passions, and I love pursuing it."

Shaila Christopher, Saxophone Section Leader
"I enjoy helping out my section, and pushing them to be better marchers."

Nathan Steinback, Battery Section Leader
"I like being able to show the freshmen how marching band works, and I like seeing them improve."

Aaliyah Smith, Guard Captain
"I like being able to lend a helping hand when needed."

Morgan Nesbitt, Guard Captain
"I love being someone for freshmen to look up to."

Anna Rowell, Guard Captain
"Being a leader gives me an opportunity to help the group improve as much as I can."

Section Traditions

"One of the things we do is the 'whoop.' We all stand in a circle and hold onto each other's instruments. We then individually squat down and 'whoop' all the way around the circle."
- Ryan Nickel

"We start on our right hand and we shake it 8 times, then the left hand, then the right foot, then the left foot, and then, we do it all over again, counting to 7 the second time, then 6 the third time, and so on."
- MacKenzie Noppe

HERE on the field, we find our "Souls." We become a part of a second family. The field becomes our home away from home. "We practice like we perform, and give it our all. We discover our passion here," said senior Ellie Maranda.

What Is Your *Favorite* Part Of *Band?*

"Being able to be around a diverse group of people who are more kind and accepting than most other people in the school."
Aleric Feighner, 10

"The music we get to play, and seeing Marching Band people play different instruments than what they play in Concert Band."
Zenniphyr Bullock, 9

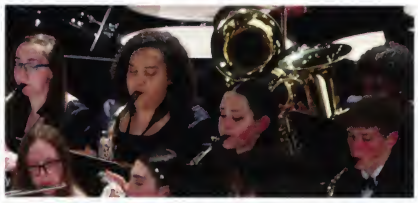
"Practicing the music with all my friends."
Jaiden Latcham, 11

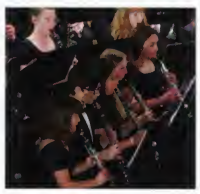
"How comfortable the environment is and how it feels like a place you belong."
Alisia Sarver, 11

"Overcoming a difficult part."
Daxon Ashpaugh, 9

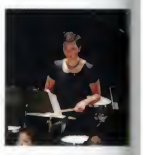
"Meeting new people and being able to stay connected with the newcomers."
Asha Doukoure, 11

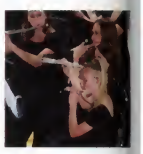
Symphonic Band

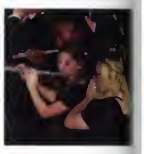


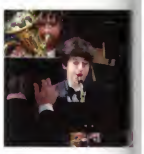


Concert Band

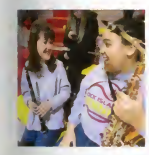


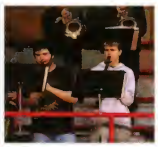
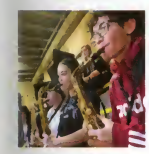


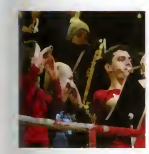
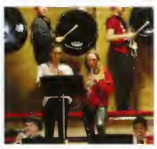
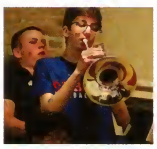




Pep Band



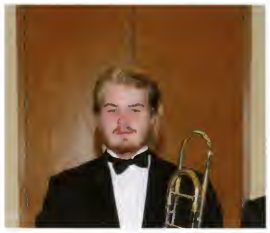
Here at Rocky, there are multiple separate bands, each with different musicians and varying levels of experience. Students are placed in each band based on an audition at the end of the previous school year.

During the fall semester, the bands are divided between Marching Band and Concert Band. The Fall Concert Band is significantly smaller than the Spring Band. These bands perform at the Winter Concert, each with their own pieces in addition to the handful of songs played with both.

In the spring, there are Symphonic and Concert Bands. This semester's Concert Band is much larger than that of the fall semester. Symphonic is the higher of the two, and can be seen as the band equivalent of the Chamber Choir or varsity sports teams.

In addition to these two bands, there are also Jazz and Pep Bands. Jazz Band plays after each concert at the high school, and tends to play more upbeat songs, with different techniques like improvisation. The Pep Band plays well-known pop songs before and during all of the girls' and boys' varsity basketball games.

Allstate Musicians



Nicholas Alt, Jazz
3rd Chair Trombone
"It was nice to be around other musicians who share the same passion for music as I do."

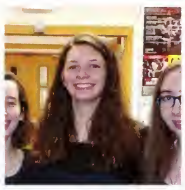
Larissa Pothoven, Band
6th Chair Flute
"It was a wonderful experience. I really enjoyed all the music we played, and making new friends in the process."

Chloe Shomo, Orchestra
2nd Chair Clarinet
"I had such an amazing time and I enjoyed every second of it, even the long rehearsals. I hope I can go back next year!"

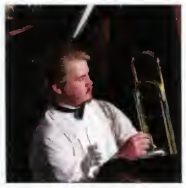
ILMEA Musicians

Jonathan Knuth, Ian Empen, Nils Empen, Peh Lay, Natalie Pothoven, Nicholas Alt, Calvin Banks, Emily Brown, Lynzie Heggen, Chloe Shomo, Larissa Pothoven

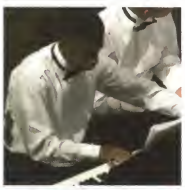
JAZZ IT UP



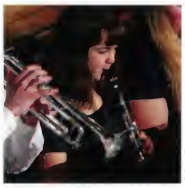
Tiffany O'Leary, 11
"I like the music we play. It's just vibes!"



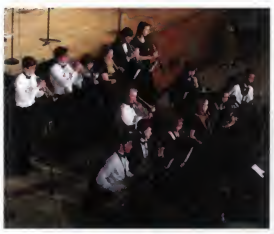
Nick Alt, 12
"Without Jazz Band, I would have never developed the skills to begin playing in multiple bands around the Quad Cities."

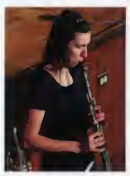
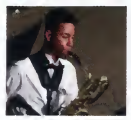


Caleb Smith, 10
"My favorite song that we played was probably 'Manteca,' because I liked the solo a lot!"

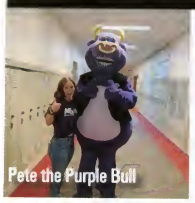


Chloe Shomo, 10
"My favorite memory from Jazz Band was finally getting the courage to do a solo during Billy's Bounce at a concert."



Drama Club


Pete the Purple Bull

Theatre Fest

Musical Scavenger Hunt

Rally at the Rock

Demario Rankin is the first student from Rock Island High School to make All-State Theatre. He auditioned in June with a handful of other Rocky students. The All-State show, 'Aida', is a show set in Ancient Egypt. Rankin played a Nubian King, Amonsaro. Rankin plans on auditioning for next year's All-State Theatre show, 'Cabaret', as well.

HERE in the Little Theatre, the Drama Club meets every Thursday. The club not only performs, but they volunteer, go on field trips, and all the while, have fun. Vice President, Demario Rankin, says, "Drama Club is the heart to everything I do."

Drama BOARD 2019 2020

President

Gwendalyn Waggoner

Vice President

Demario Rankin

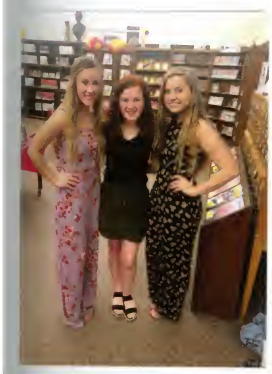
Secretary

Charly Heber-Spates

Thespian Point Officer

Ilangishatse Bujeni

HERE in the library, you find dedicated students working hard, preparing for the monumental walk across the stage, signifying they embody the four pillars of NHS, scholarship, leadership, service and character.



Rocky inducts another class of NHS members.

HITTING THE BOOKS

This year, the Rock Island High School National Honor Society continues its tradition of excellence and community service. Led by advisors, Mrs. Hayek and Mrs. Greenwood, as well as President Zoe Veasey, VP JJ Willhite, and Secretary Gwendalyn Waggoner, the group sets the standard for academic achievement at the Rock. Mrs. Hayek explains, "NHS recognizes the students who achieve and maintain a cumulative GPA equivalent to a B+ or better, while they maintain character, leadership, service, and scholarship in their community. Many students who join NHS are involved in school sports, clubs, and activities. Many students also have a job and still find time to volunteer in the QCA community." NHS students volunteered at local churches, Friendship Manor, soup kitchens, animal shelters, the Festival of Trees, Bald Eagle Days, Rock Island grade schools, CASI, and many other QC events. Besides volunteering, the group also plans their induction ceremony, which takes place in the spring each year. NHS inducts their new seniors, as well as welcomes their new underclassmen provisional members.

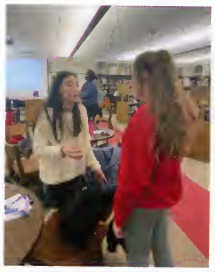
"It feels really special that my classmates see me as a leader, and feel that I represent the four pillars well."
Zoe Veasey, President

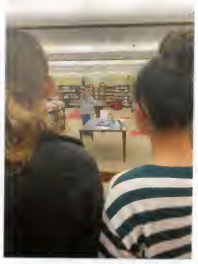
"I feel very empowered and feel like I have finally been recognized for my intelligence."
JJ Willhite, Vice President

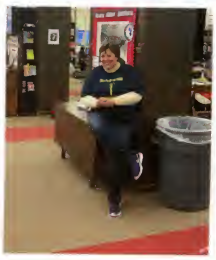
"As the secretary of NHS, I feel confident that I am setting a good example for other students at Rocky. I value all of the pillars that NHS set, and feel as if they will help me as I transition out of high school."
Gwen Waggoner, Secretary

Every year, advisors Mrs. Hayek and Mrs. Greenwood work hard to induct new members, as well as provisional members. A great deal of planning goes into the NHS induction ceremony, and Rocky is lucky to have these two as the group's leaders.

NHS 2020







Fly Away and Reach for the *Stars*

The *Seniors* who are departing from our *Drama Department*

"Drama Club has changed my life. It showed me that there are people who are amazing and caring. It has allowed me to express myself in ways I didn't know possible. It has given me opportunities to stretch my limits and to meet new, life long, friends."

Sja'Lell Downing Mims, 12

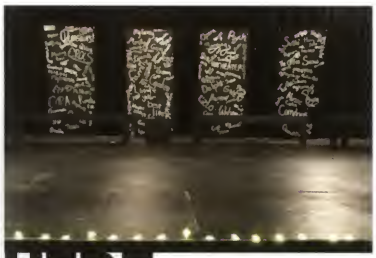
"I always tell people that I wish I joined the Drama Club sooner because this place has been much more than just a stage to me. This department has provided me with long lasting friends, countless memories, and irreplaceable experiences to take with me to college."

Montana Hogan, 12

"As my family would confirm, I have always been slightly dramatic. Whether they meant it as a dig to my overreactions or a compliment to my boisterous personality, it meant I felt an affinity to the stage. Theatre has not only been an outlet, but a home that is always accepting me for who I am."

Gwendalyn Waggoner, 12

Storytellers *on* Stage



HERE on the Little Theatre stage, the cast of "Peter/Wendy" rehearses for hours after school. Georgi Feigley says, "Fall Play means working with new people and developing friendships along the way to create something beautiful!"

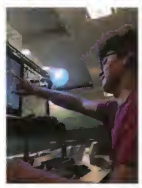
Stories Come to *Life*

The Fall Play, 'Peter/Wendy,' has been a unique experience for all. This show helped actors to push their conventional acting boundaries and forced the audience to seek a deeper meaning to comprehend the production. "It required more imagination and creative input," Charlotte Boyer stated. This play was very cast driven, meaning the actors made a lot of their ideas come to life, and many took on the role of being their own directors.

Dorian Foster, the director of the show, stated, "The show is something much different than we normally do. It's pretty unconventional." She explained that the students were more involved in the show and were forced to step outside of their comfort zones. "The actors played characters that were either a lot like them or nothing like them. We find comfort and discomfort in our own likeness," Foster described.

Charlotte Boyer has been in two shows in the past at Rocky, and a handful more at her junior high in previous years. However, Boyer says, "This show is different than any show I have done in the past. Instead of using a lot of specific props for the play, the cast had to come up with other ways to make the play come to life, such as flying or using a sheet to create water." Boyer played the character of Tiger Lily in the show. Mrs. Foster played a huge role in assisting the cast in making their imagination a reality. As Foster said, "Not everything in the show is spelled out for us like a more traditional script."

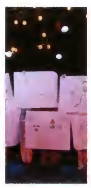
"My favorite part about being a part of the Drama Program is that everyone treats you like family and everyone wants each other to be better and to succeed," Boyer added. This show has brought her closer to her friends in the Drama Club and made her love for acting increase, as it did for many of the actors in 'Peter/Wendy.' Foster concluded, "Appreciate who you are and where you are right now. Try not to forget the good things in life, no matter how small or mundane they seem. And that theatre is more than just a means of entertainment; it is a great vehicle for personal and creative growth."

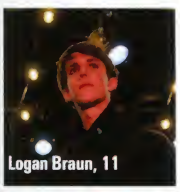


Behind the Scenes

The use of odd objects and handmade crafts helped solidify the idea of children putting on a show, rather than actors performing in high school. Kyle Waggoner, lighting designer, said, "We decided to not only use theatrical light fixtures, but conventional ones."

Memories




Logan Braun, 11

"I love how there's never really an "off day". Every single rehearsal, we're always enhancing our play, and everyone is a part of that experience."

Addison VandeWalle, 10

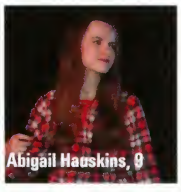
"Every time we are all together is yet another great memory! Working on an "entrance song" with Bujeni (Captain Hook) is definitely up there in my favorite memories."

Raje Mims, 10

"After we did a full run through of the show, the whole cast was doing life chants and playing games. It was so much fun to just hang out and laugh with everyone."

Olivia Johnson, 10

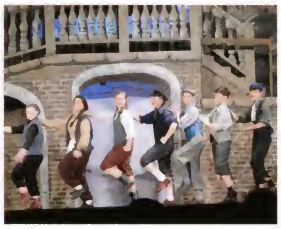
"The best part, by far, was getting to know everyone. I got to know all of the people new to the Drama Department this year, while also getting closer to the friends I already had."

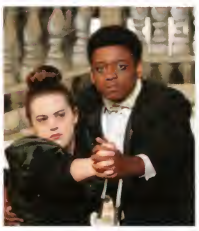

Abigail Hauskins, 9

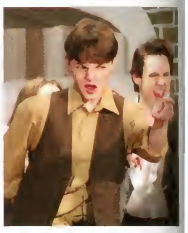
"If I had to choose a favorite memory, I would be writing an essay. I think my favorite part was just hanging out during rehearsals, chilling at the cast party, and meeting new people."

Kassandra Miller, 9

"My favorite memory was when Foster was doing a demonstration for Tana on how to hit a pot with a spoon, and when Foster hit the two together, the spoon snapped in half."







"It's a Fine, Fine Life!"

RIHS Drama performs *Oliver!* as 2019 Spring Musical

The Rock Island High School Theatre Department performed *Oliver!* as their 2019 Spring Musical. Based on the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, the musical was first released in 1968, and has since become a classic. The main character, Oliver, is a young orphan, who escapes from a cruel workhouse, only to be picked up by a gang of boys, who make a living by picking pockets. Along the way, he meets many eccentric characters, and is caught up in the large struggle of good versus evil.

Mrs. Foster, the director and producer, said that she chose *Oliver!* as the musical because the show is "challenging in a lot of good ways." The set was one difficult factor, as various different settings are reflected throughout the show, including the orphanage, the streets of London, and the gang's hideout. Foster noted that her favorite part of directing the show was that, "It is a dark story, and not typical of our show selections." The play deals with many dark elements like orphans, death, child labor, crime, and social injustice.

Montana Hogan, now a senior, played Nancy in the musical when she was a junior. She stated, "This musical was more serious than any musical we have done in the past. It was a long process to try and portray the sad themes of the show, but our cast, crew, and pit presented it wonderfully once the curtains opened on Opening Night."

One unique aspect of this show was that junior high students performed on stage, along with actors from the high school. Julian Anderson, who portrayed the main character, Oliver, was in eighth grade when he debuted in this role. Anderson said that his favorite part of performing the show was "entertaining the audience." The early introduction to high school theatre is a good opportunity for students who plan to continue in drama after junior high.

Hogan noted her favorite part of performing in this show was, "All of the people I met and the friends I made! It was also very life changing to hear from people younger than myself that they looked up to me. I think my favorite part was making my friends proud, and showing the younger kids they can do anything they put their mind to!" In addition to the lead role being a junior high student, the majority of the gang was made up of younger members, as well.

Anderson described his musical experience as, "Awesome!" and stated that he "was nothing but excited every day to get to perform with all of the people involved with the show." He also noted that, "It was such an honor to take on the part of Oliver! There is such a sense of community and family that develops in the Rocky Theater Program! The actors I worked with in *Oliver!* were even more fun to hang with than many professionals!"

This production of *Oliver!* showcased the talents of high school and junior high actors from Rock Island. The Theater Program is excited to see how the younger generation will influence the Drama Department at Rocky, as they continue their acting careers.

Leads Recount *Oliver!* Acting Experience

"My experience in *Oliver!* was all about the realness and qualities of a real show being brought together and put to life."
Demario Rankin, 11

"*Oliver!* was super groovy because I finally had a bigger part in the plot. It was also really sad, though, because it was the last year I had to perform with my senior friends."
Charly Heber-Spates, 11

"*Oliver!* was probably my most challenging acting experience. I struggled so much with my character, but I learned even more."
Bujeni Itangishatse, 11

"*Oliver!* the musical was such an amazing experience and I am very glad that I got to be a part of it. I couldn't have asked for a better show to end my senior year with. I was given a lot of artistic freedom while developing my character that I think was really beneficial to me as an actor. This show was an important stepping stone towards my career in performing. *Oliver!* has a very special place in my heart and I know that it will be a show that I carry with me for a very long time."
Kameron Roberts

"*Oliver!* was lots of hard work, but a lot of fun, too."
Charles Murphy

MUSICAL TRADITIONS

Montana Hogan (12)
Cast

"A cast tradition during musical is doing 'Woos' after a successful performance. Two seniors hype up the cast by making silly rhymes about each other. We try not to be too crazy, but sometimes, it just happens!"

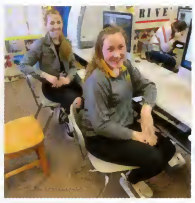
Calvin Banks (11)
Pit Orchestra

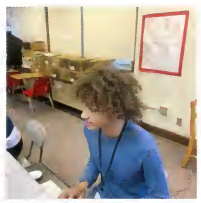
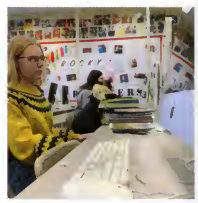
"The toy ducks are a great tradition in pit! Our director, Mr. Tollenaer, has some weird connection with ducks, and likes to be around them when times get tough musically. We also spank a yellow duck before every performance for good luck."

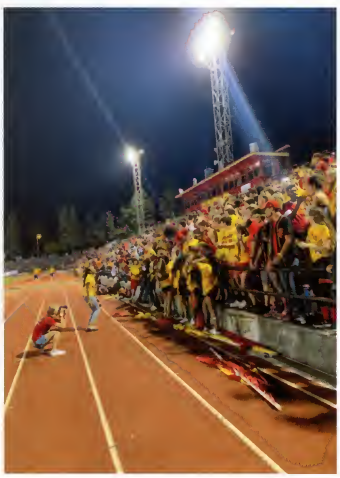
Kyle Waggoner (11)
Tech Crew

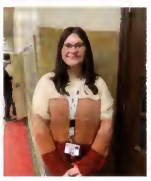
"We do this thing with a tree stump where we join hands, do a lil' chant thing, offer some cheese nips, and do a lil' dance."

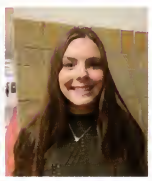
HERE the stage is very important to those in Theater. "As a cast member of musical, you spend hours on the stage. This is not only where you get to express new emotions and portray exciting characters, it is also where you build relationships with your fellow cast members. The stage is not only for the applause, but it creates families," stated Gwendalyn Waggoner, the President of Drama Club.

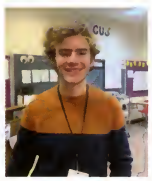










Jusele Irambona
"I like being an editor because it's a chance to let me share my ideas. Also, I like knowing about all the fun pages we're going to put in the yearbook."

Alyssa Groothaert
"I like being an editor because I get the chance to talk to so many different people and find out what they love, and getting to see all the fun stuff before we release the yearbook to everyone."

JaRaya Carr
"Being an editor is exciting. I get the chance to speak to many different people every day, know people's stories, and I can help them find a voice at Rocky."

Emily Bush
"I like being an editor because I get to work on pages that not everyone gets to work on, and make them my own, along with giving my input."

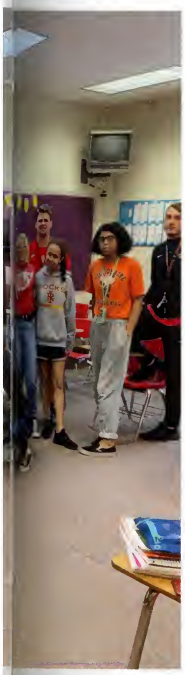
Lauryn Dempsey
"I like being an editor because I get to make sure that my peers get covered in the yearbook and receive recognition for all of their achievements."

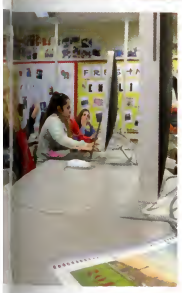
Kailyn Sanders
"I like being an editor because I like being able to give my input on fun topics to cover and learning more about my school."

Morgan Nesbitt
"I like being able to work on the student life pages, and I like making the pages my own."

Ethan Kirkpatrick
"I've always wanted to do journalism. Now that I'm part of it, I really love it!"

Tana Hogan
"Being an editor presents me with many fun learning experiences that many other classes do not provide. Journalism is one of my favorite classes!"





Gwen Waggoner
"Being an editor of the yearbook helps me create historical records of all of our high school memories."

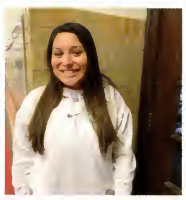
Returning Rocks

Second year Journalism Editors explain what they love about taking on a big role in the yearbook.

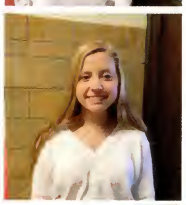
"I enjoy being an editor because we get a chance to edit and design the book ourselves, along with getting a preview before anyone else does."
Emma Beierlein, 12

"I love being an editor because it allows me to meet new people and show my creativity."
Larissa Pothoven, 12

"Being a second year editor and being involved in the yearbook is a fun experience. My favorite thing about it is taking pictures and creating memories we will hold onto forever."
Amelia Peña, 12



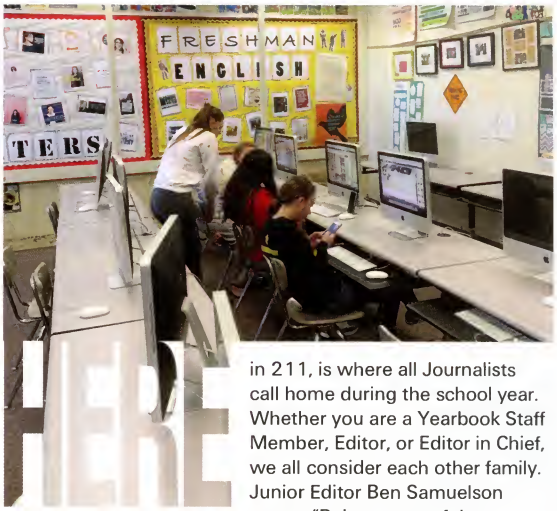
"I like being an editor because I'm able to design something for a lot of students at Rocky that they keep the rest of their lives, and being able to learn more about different clubs and organizations."
Hannah Drish, 12



"I like being an editor because it is a chance to showcase all the great things we have here at Rocky, and put a spotlight on people who normally don't get to shine."
Anna Rowell, 12

"My favorite part of being an editor is how involved I get to be. It's really cool to get the final book and know you worked hard to make it the best it could be."
Ellie Maranda, 12

"I like being an editor because it gives me an opportunity to be creative and explore new ways to meet new people and make new friends. :)"
Darian Harding, 12



HERE in 211, is where all Journalists call home during the school year. Whether you are a Yearbook Staff Member, Editor, or Editor in Chief, we all consider each other family. Junior Editor Ben Samuelson states, "Being a part of the Journalism class, and being able to work on the yearbook is like I have power. I can organize my section of the book in a way that looks good to me, and I like being able to use my creativity to come up with something on the fly." To create the best yearbook at RIHS, we create the best memories and enjoy all our times with each other here in 211!

Creating the best yearbook, page by page, and headline by headline.

PICTURE JOURNALISM HERE

As a Journalism class, editors and staff members contribute to the yearbook in some way. Whether you are creating an extended coverage, conducting an interview, fixing a headline, or even tagging pictures, everyone takes a huge role in this book. The Journalism staff's goal each year is to make the next book better than the year before. With the excellent help of Ms. Miers, the Journalism Advisor, the class is able to achieve that goal. Miers states, "There's a lot more planning to the yearbook than what people think. We actually start planning for the next year's book in May of the year before, then over the summer, we work on theme development and get information out about Senior pictures. For the next 3 quarters, we work on organizing the book, putting the book together, and selling the book, and then it starts all over again." Despite the hard work, the class is a very fun one to take on. Junior Editor, Alayna Amidon states, "Being in Journalism this year has been a really good way of stepping out of my comfort zone. I've really enjoyed working on the yearbook and I think it's an amazing opportunity, if you get the chance!"

THE FUTURE IS *Female*

In 2016, at Rock Island High School, the whole perspective of women changed. Inspired by Jada Veasey ('18), Sarah McCullough ('18), and Kieran Benson ('18), the Riveters were co-founded by Ms. Miers and Mrs. Randolph. These few individuals made the Rocky Riveters possible. Ms. Miers stated that, "A few years ago, we had a group of students who would stay after class to talk to us about issues the Riveters now talk about quite a bit. Then, after the 2016 election, I read "Off the Sidelines" by Senator Gillibrand. It really inspired me to take action, so I called Randolph, and asked if she wanted to start a feminist club with me. We talked to the girls, we got board approval, and we've been rolling since then!"

The Riveters started out small and have blossomed into something much bigger. The Rocky Riveters mean more than just a club to the group, it's more of a family.

In Mrs. Randolph's words, "The main focus is to empower young women here at Rock Island High School. We do this by bringing in guest speakers, completing community service projects, and going on field trips." These projects are very important to the group.

The Riveters have already accomplished so much in just 3 short years. They plan to accomplish so much more, within the next several years to come.

YOU GO GIRL

MLK Parade

The Riveters were invited to walk in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. This event was something new to the Riveters and they were very excited to give it a try.

Fearlessly Girl Assembly

Girls interested in joining the Riveters were invited to join at an assembly in the Rock Island High School Auditorium on Wednesday August 28th, 2019, to talk with Kate Whitfield, about inspiring other girls to take on the world and be fearless. The girls also learned how to create a kinder girl world.

Girls on Fire Conference

The Riveters attended a field trip at the Figge Art Museum on Thursday, November 21st, 2019. The girls were encouraged to meet new people and share their stories with others.

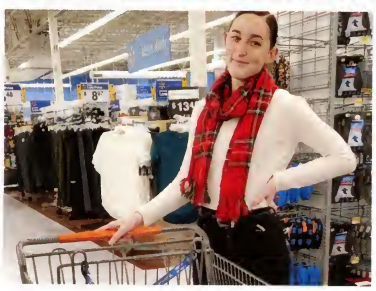
Voter Registration Drive

On September 27th, 2019, the Riveters worked with the League of Women Voters to register 26 Rocky students to vote in the next election.

John Deere Field Trip

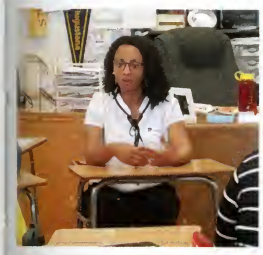
On January 17th, 2020, the Riveters went to John Deere Harvester Works and toured the plant. They got to gain some experience on how to work as a team. They also got to meet a few John Deere employees and ask a few questions, including Mrs. Randolph's husband, who is an engineer at John Deere!

HERE in rooms 211 and 122, being a Rocky Riveter means being empowering and willing to fight for women's rights. Junior Emily Bush says, "Being in the Riveters has changed my mindset on so many issues in the world, and has made me a stronger person, in general. Just knowing that all of these girls have my back and are all here for the same reason really makes me feel that the world is changing for the better, and that women can do anything they set their minds to."



RIVETERS BRING CHRISTMAS JOY

On December 8th, 2019, the Riveters went shopping at Wal-Mart with the Milan Women's Club. They were given a sheet with a child's name, age, and likes, and then they custom shopped for them. This is one of the many ways that the Riveters give back and make a difference in the community.



Girl PWR

The Riveters have local community figures come in as guest speakers and talk of their journeys and experiences throughout their lives. The Riveters get valuable advice from these speakers. The Riveters had the opportunity to listen to these two former Rocks, Delina Tesfamichael and Jada Veasey talk about their college experiences and some tips on becoming a successful woman in America.

Rocky Riveters

The new motto for this year took a great deal of thought. It has a lot of meaning to the group, and the Riveters wanted to display it to the world for all to see- that the Riveters are empowering one woman at a time.

Empowered
Women
Empower
the World

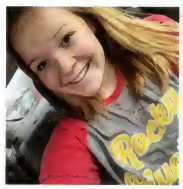
ONE WORD SAYS IT ALL

"Encouraged"
Miranda Igo, 11

"Powerful"
JaRaya Carr, 11

"Empowering"
Itangishatse Bujeni, 11

"Independent"
Morgan Nesbitt, 12



The Riveters get ready to take off on an antique firetruck for the Homecoming Parade on September 20th.

Q A

How does representing the Rocky Riveters make you feel?

Sarah Miers
"Working with the Riveters has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my teaching career. I love getting the opportunity to introduce the girls to new ideas, careers, and professionals in the area, especially politicians. Seeing the Riveters get excited and passionate about an issue is awesome. But more importantly, empowering the girls to take action and care about what happens in our community and world is inspiring to see, and continually gives me hope for the future."

Amanda Randolph
"Representing the Rocky Riveters makes me feel immensely proud! I am sure the women who fought for us to have the right to vote and other basic foundational rights would also love the Riveters. I enjoy participating in community service with our members and hearing from the guest speakers. I am happy to volunteer my time with the group because I think it makes a legitimate difference in our students' lives. I hope the Riveters continues to grow and thrive for many years to come."

We Wish You...

This year Chamber Singers has seven seniors, who will leave the group after May 31st. The choir wishes them the best of luck with their future journey.

This is Sja'Lell Downing-Mims third year in the Chamber Choir. Sja'Lell has been looking into colleges that will support his passion in music. He says, "I plan to study music, and even if it doesn't work out, I will keep singing and keep music in my life."

"Music has been an important aspect of my life," Siobhan claims. "Learning and performing with Chamber has deepened my love for music," Siobhan states. Her first year in Chamber has been a great one, and she thanks this group of people for the memories.

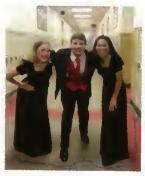
Ryan Nickel has been doing all sorts of music throughout his high school career. "Chamber Choir is an amazing experience. It allowed me to broaden what I knew about music and showed me that music is not just sounds." Ryan plans to continue music in college.

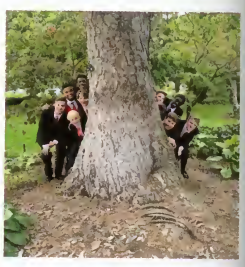
Tana loved to sing since she was young. "I thank music for helping me through these last four years," Tana claims. For two years, she has been in Chamber. She thanks the choir program for gifting her many friends and memories. She plans to continue music throughout college.

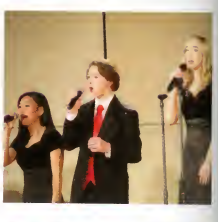
"Music has made me who I am now," Ehler states. Church and youth group helped develop Ehler's love for music. Ehler has been in the choir program at the high school all four years, two of them being in Chamber. Being in Chamber made Ehler come out of her shell and improved her ability as a performer.

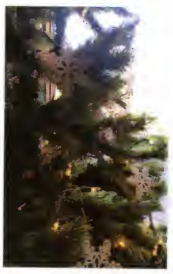
"Music has affected my life in every way it can. I feel music drives me insane, but other times, it's what keeps me sane," Katherine states. She's very grateful that she has the chance to work with dedicated musicians. She wants to continue her career in music through music production.

"Music is the thing that has always been there for me," Emma says. Chamber has been her form of stress relief during a very busy senior year. Emma adds, "Music allows me to stop, think, and make sense of the world." She concludes that she will look to continue musical theatre throughout college.









Christmas Time is Here

During the Christmas season, the Rock Island Chamber Singers carol for all sorts of events across the Quad Cities. The choir is given about 20 choral pieces to memorize before the month of December. All of the music that is memorized is performed during their shows. These shows take place at busy dinner parties for businesses, gatherings for groups, churches, school assemblies, and more! The rigorous hours spent practicing, memorizing, and perfecting music is all worth the while. At the end of the season, all of the Chamber Singer's hard work pays off, and they put on a wonderful performance for all.

Bringing Cheer & MUSIC

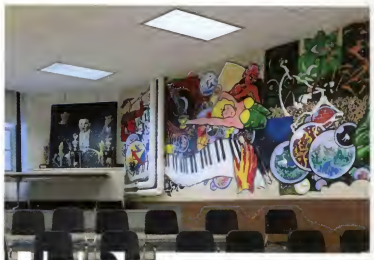
The vocal group at Rock Island High School, the Chamber Singers, has been around since the early sixties. Since then, Rock Island High School has had an assortment of different ensembles, such as Boy's Glee, Acapella, Show Choir, and Barber Shop groups. While these other groups each lasted only for a while, the Chamber Singers has remained a part of the program.

The Chamber Singers work hard in order to perform to the best of their ability. They spend hours memorizing and perfecting their music. Christmas time is the busiest time of the year for this group. They have an abundance of songs to memorize and twenty seven performances in the span of two weeks. Being in the Chamber Singers is rigorous, but when the audience rises from their seats with a standing ovation, the choir knows that their hard work paid off.

Scott Voigt, the current choir director at Rocky, has been teaching all the choirs for thirteen years. Voigt declares, "Being in All-State Choir when I was in high school inspired me to pursue a music career. I continue teaching Chamber Singers because I want the audience to feel a special bond with our students through the music they make."

Evan Lyon is a freshman who is new to the Chamber Singers this year. He says, "Chamber Singers has been the best experience I could ask for!" He enjoys Christmas season and appreciates how close it made him to his friends. "The Chamber Singers are energetic, hardworking, and determined," Lyon states.

The students in Chamber Singers spend lots of time around each other and music. Voigt states, "The things we would like them to leave with are a dedication to something they are passionate about, to strive toward their goals, to not be afraid to stand and deliver, and to go out into the world and expect big things from themselves."



HERE the Chamber Singers do not only make music. They also make memories and friends that will last beyond 5th period. As Tana Hogan states, "Our group works together to represent the choir program through our performances. We put our whole heart into our songs and our choir. Here, we are family."

OUR ALL-STATE *Musicians*

Honors Chorus: Katherine Shewell, Joe Brune

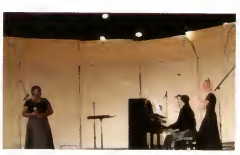
All-State Chorus: Siobhan Dunn, Ehler Shee

All-State Vocal Jazz: Demario Rankin

Artists Featured

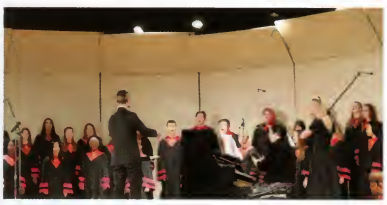
Larissa Pothoven joined the Chamber Singers on their tour this year. She accompanied the choir playing flute. Larissa has been playing the flute for seven years. She is also playing flute for the All-State Band.

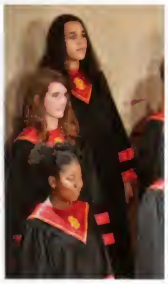
Lucas Rettig also joined the Chamber Singers on their tour this year. He accompanied the choir playing jingle bells, a shaker, and the djembe. Lucas is a part of the Front Line for the Rock Island Marching Band, as well as a member of Concert Choir first semester. He was selected to be in Chamber Singers for second semester.



Concert Choir

The entry level choir at Rocky is Concert Choir. This Choir is for 9th graders and people who are new to choir and are interested in furthering their knowledge in music. Although many of the students come in with experience from junior high choir, there is always a good number from grades 9-12 who are new to music that join every year.





Music is Made HERE

First Year in Concert Choir

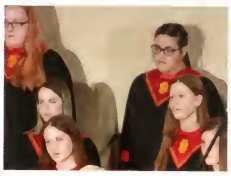
This year is Phoebe's first year ever in choir. "I have wanted to do choir since 7th grade, but it was never convenient with my schedule. Finally, sophomore year, it worked out. It is an incredibly fun experience between our talented director, Scott Voigt, our extraordinary pianist, Cheryl Bolt, and being able to share a class with my sister, Payton. I can not wait to see what my future in choir holds!"

Second Year in Concert Choir

Payton was in Concert Choir in 9th grade, Symphonic Choir in 10th and 11th grade, and has returned to Concert Choir for 12th grade due to scheduling conflicts. She is happy to be spending her Senior year in choir with her sister. "Moving to Concert Choir has its up and downs, but it is so much fun getting to meet a lot of underclassmen and being able to help guide them through their earlier years."

Symphonic Choir

The second choir at Rocky, Symphonic Choir, is for students in grades 10-12, who have previous experience in choir. A number of students are new to choir, but have experience in band or orchestra. This choir is for musicians who are interested in learning more complex music and performing at a higher level.



Heaven Myers, 10

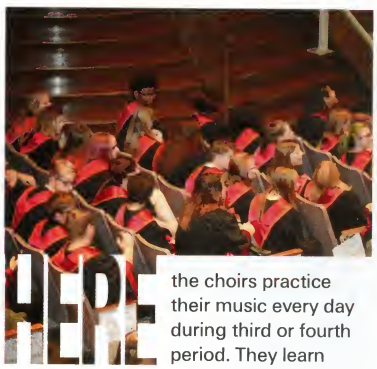
First Year in Symphonic Choir

This is Heaven's first year in Symphonic Choir. She states, "Symphonic Choir isn't just another class. The friends we make last longer than the hour we're in the room. People once told me no one would talk to me because I was different. But every hand reaches out to support me when I walk across the stage. Indifference no longer matters, because in choir, we're all given the same thing- a voice."

Third Year in Symphonic Choir

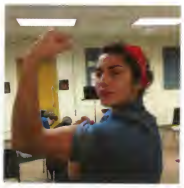
This year is Kevin's third year in Symphonic Choir. As he states, "Symphonic Choir has brought me out of my comfort zone, but it has helped me exceed in singing. My freshman year, I was shy because of my voice, but now, I can sing in front of many people. Symphonic Choir has been a safe space for me, a home. Everyone laughs with you and not at you. You can be yourself. We are a family."

Kevin Kolls, 12

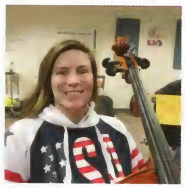


HERE the choirs practice their music every day during third or fourth period. They learn how to read music and improve their vocal skills. They make long lasting memories with the friends they met through choir. They create beautiful sounding music together. Here, they are all one voice.

"My favorite part of Chamber Orchestra is being able to experience harder music at its full capacity, and how deep into it we get."
Phoebe Fuller, 10



"My favorite part about Chamber Orchestra is the mutual respect and love for the music that the students have."
Valerie Holland, 11



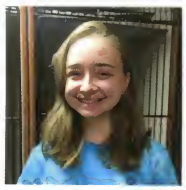
"My favorite part about being in Chamber Orchestra is the passion and drive that we have as a group."
Bailey Hecker, 9

"My favorite part about being in Chamber Orchestra is getting to play at gigging events."
Thomas Taylor, 11

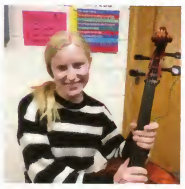
Orchestra Director
Katie Benson

Mrs. Katie Benson is the music director for both Chamber and Concert Orchestra at Rock Island High School.

Rock Island Orchestra Director Katie Benson's favorite part about teaching Orchestra is seeing students grow and mature. This school year, the Orchestra Program has branched out into two different groups, Chamber and Concert. In Chamber, students must audition, where in Concert, students can simply register. Generally, the students in Chamber are more advanced musicians, while Concert works on the basics. Benson's advice for musicians wanting to be in Chamber would be "Practice. Practice auditioning for people often, and ask for help when you need it." Benson's main goal for both Chamber and Concert Orchestra is for all the students to keep moving forward in their personal and musical maturity.



"My favorite memory from Orchestra was going on the music department trip to Flo... my freshman year and getting perform at Disney. It was such cool experience that marked beginning of a great four year..."
Emma Wahlmann, 12

"My favorite memory from Orchestra is going to play for Wartburg's Meistersinger H... Orchestra."
Aminia Mashimango, 12

"My favorite memory from Orchestra was me choosing t... cello because I was lazy and wanted an excuse to sit down."
Elyse O'Brien, 12

"By far, my favorite memory throughout Orchestra has been getting to participate in the Peoria All State Orchestra Festival. The audition process always challenging, and mak... it feels so rewarding."
Tye Gordon, 12

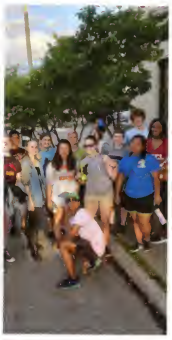
both Chamber and Concert Orchestra take great pride in the music that they perform on stage. It takes hard work and determination to be a good musician!

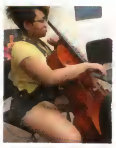
RIGHT. Rock Island High School's Concert Orchestra utilizes the auditorium for a rehearsal.

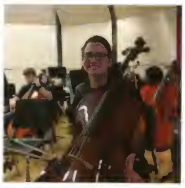
FAR RIGHT Concert Orchestra rehearses before their first concert of the year.

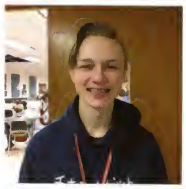
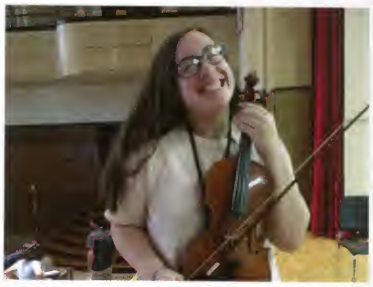
BOTTOM RIGHT. Savannah Harding and Lucas Cook practice on their basses in preparation for a concert.

Better Together







Concert Spotlight

What's your favorite part about being in Concert Orchestra?

"My favorite part of Concert Orchestra is how charismatic everyone is. Mrs. Benson makes Orchestra fun and enjoyable for every student, and the class is always a good part of my day."
- Griselda Aguirre, 11 (top left)

"My favorite part about being in Concert Orchestra is playing with all the other kids in different grade levels. I have made really good friendships and the love is strong."
- Demario Rankin, 11 (top right)

"My favorite part about being in Concert Orchestra is the unity that it brings."
- Kasen Ross, 10 (bottom left)

"I love being able to express myself in a different way! The way the music makes me feel when we're all playing together is amazing!"
- Ava Coussens, 10 (bottom right)

Chamber Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra is a new addition to the Orchestra Program this year. This group is compiled of students ready to work hard and be challenged. One of the students in Chamber, Elyse O'Brien, commented that the music is "a bit more difficult, but it's good because I'm challenging myself." O'Brien also commented on the size of the orchestra, saying that she prefers Chamber because it is smaller and less crowded. Students in Chamber Orchestra must be ready to put in more effort, along with being able to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

meet the PRESIDENTS

"I have been heavily involved all 4 years, so it is a privilege to be at the top for my last year. I love to be a part of the planning that goes into our school's events."
Emma Beierlein, 12th grade

"I joined Student Council 4 years ago and am grateful to be a President my senior year. I enjoy putting together all of our events and getting others involved."
Kailyn Sanders, 12th grade

"Being a President, to me, means being able to make final decisions and be hands on in the activities we take a role in. I love it because of the people I get involved with."
Maggie Honeycutt, 12th grade

For The Kids

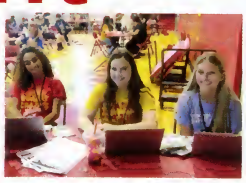
Student Council brought back Dance Marathon, a charity dance. In the previous year, they raised a total of $5,170.54. Dance Marathon is a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network and helps children and their families who are in the hospital. Student Council's fundraising benefits the University of Iowa's Stead Family Hospitals.

HOMECOMING

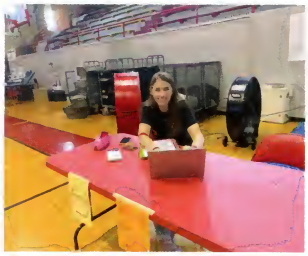
The Student Council gets ready for Rocky's 2019 "Sunken" Homecoming Dance. They spent countless hours making decorations to ensure everyone had a nice Homecoming. The Student Council put a lot of planning into this year's dance.

Lend a Hand –Give a Can–

Saving Lives one Pint at a time



Student Council hosts a blood drive three times a year. This gives students the opportunity to donate blood at school.
Above: Jayla Hathorn, Maura Chandler, and Camryn Milefchik run donor check in.
Left: Ashlynn Canfield and Devin Swift pose for a picture after their donations.



Student Council

Rock Island's Student Council takes on the planning of Homecoming, Hunger Drive, Blood Drive, and Dance Marathon throughout the year. Members of the organization dedicate countless hours to these various events.

The first big event that Student Council plans is the Homecoming Dance and Assembly. The group starts planning at the end of the year to figure out the theme of the dance and decoration ideas. Ella Munday states, "Helping with Homecoming can be stressful due to time crunches, but it's so much fun, and is rewarding to be able to see everyone having fun at the assembly, parade, game, and dance." This year, they even put in hours over the summer to get ahead with the many decorations that were handmade.

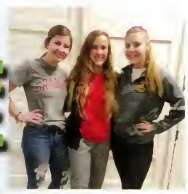
The Hunger Drive is one of the biggest charity drives of the year. The Student Council tries their best to get their school involved. Student Council hosted the Football Powderpuff Game, got an administrator to dress up as a penguin, and were even able to have a couple students get taped to a wall. RIHS raised a total of 14,978 pounds this year!

Student Council hosts three blood drives a year. Students at the school are given the opportunity to give back to those in need.

Planning for Dance Marathon starts while the Hunger Drive is still going on. Maura Chandler states, "I'm excited for the events leading up to the big event. I love hearing families' stories because they are so inspiring and really motivate me to help even more." Student Council organizes many events for students to attend in order to raise money, like a PowderPuff Volleyball Game, many food nights, and even lunch activities like Penny Wars, where students and staff can pay to have a staff member dress up in a funny costume.

The Student Council here has a future full of planning and organizing these events. Each year, improvements are made to continue engagement from the student body.

LEADERS



These leaders help plan Hunger Drive events and schedule activities.

This leader is in charge of taking notes and organizing the topics during the meetings.

HOMECOMING

This committee figures out where the dance will be held and gets decorations ready for the assembly and dance.

HUNGER DRIVE

DANCE MARATHON

This committee attends events like St. Ambrose's Dance Marathon to get more inspiration for Rocky's own Dance Marathon.

SECRETARY

HERE is where school events are planned to make the best of high school. "It's fun to be a part of something that helps the community and the school," states Camryn Milefchik. Student Council works hard to ensure everyone has fun.

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Mrs. Stribling is the CNA teacher here at RIHS. She has been teaching CNA at Rock Island High School for about 8 years, and is very passionate about her career in the health care industry. She hopes for her students to learn how to be the best health care providers they can be.

Being a CNA means that students are the eyes and ears for all of their patients and residents. Mrs. Stribling says that taking vital signs and learning what the normal limits are and what it could mean if they are not normal are important. "This helps the students become critical thinkers and think about what the next steps in caring for a patient are," she said.

The students also get experience outside of the classroom. First, they practice their skills in the lab that they have in their classroom. Then, Mrs. Stribling explained, "They perform their skills on residents at Friendship Manor during clinicals."

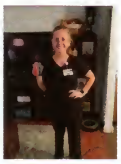
Being a CNA means that students are caring and compassionate, and that is exactly what Mrs. Stribling is working to instill. These students are the future of health care, and they are working to become accomplished professionals in the medical community.

Why Did You Take CNA?

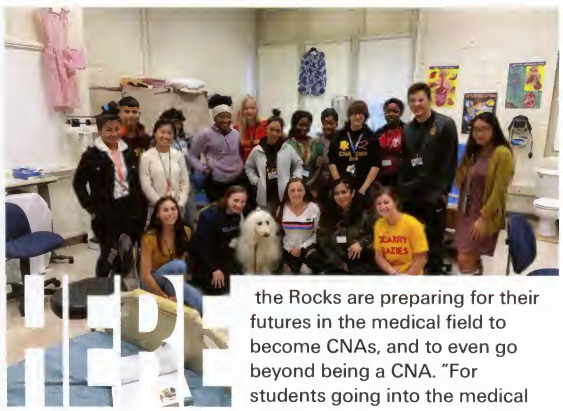
"I took CNA to better understand the medical field, and hopefully, help me get a head start before college, where I want to be a nurse."
Josie Pennington, 12

"It's going to make me more experienced and a better nurse, and help me understand other professions besides mine."
Maggie Honeycutt, 12

"It's going to get me started in the medical field, and give me experience in different fields."
Marice Dodd, 12



"This class will prepare me for my future and give me more experience before I go into nursing school."
Hannah Drish, 12



HERE the Rocks are preparing for their futures in the medical field to become CNAs, and to even go beyond being a CNA. "For students going into the medical field, the CNA class provides the opportunity for students to become an important part of the health care field,"said Jazel Carr. CNA class helps the Rocks get a taste of what nursing school will be like.

Angel Garcia, Alexa Buckrop, Emily Pearson, Uwimana Florence, Haley Westfall, Natalia Salazar, Tayelor Hemphill, Hae Sher, Tavia Johnson, Justice Lockhart, Alexis Davis, Olivia Rice, Juliana Rounds, Ashlynn Hensley-Gay

We're only in

HIGH SCHOOL, BUT... We're becoming CNAs

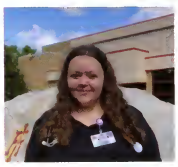
Marice Dodd and Morgan Nesbitt lift Mj Stern with a mechanical lift.

Hannah Drish shaves on a balloon with Jazel Carr.

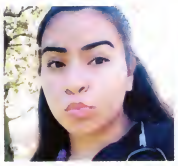
Mj Stern brushes Tristan Lambert's teeth.

Hannah Drish, Maggie Honeycutt, Josie Pennington, Mj Stern, Marice Dodd, Morgan Nesbitt, Tristan Lambert, Jazel Carr, Eh Lar, Nu Nu Khin, Leticia Dominguez, Juliana Kruzic, Armonni Parks, Jessica Bell, LaShae McDuffy, Breona Williams

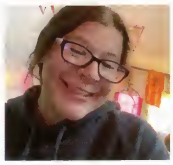
Juniors Take on CNA



"I wanted to take the CNA class as a junior because I wanted to get a head start on my career path of helping people."
- **Olivia Rice**



"I wanted to get ahead in my medical education, and be able to complete my passion for taking care of others, and becoming a CNA would be a start for me."
- **Leticia Dominguez**



"I took CNA to help my career for later on in life, kind of like a kick start."
- **Justice Lockhart**

HERE

is where imagination runs wild and minds are used to their fullest potential. "If you like to be challenged to the max, then this is the club for you," says Evan Elliott. Here is a safe place for students to be themselves and do what they enjoy most!

A Scoop on the Group

The Robotics program is run by Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Laingen, who encourage students to think differently and experiment as much as possible.

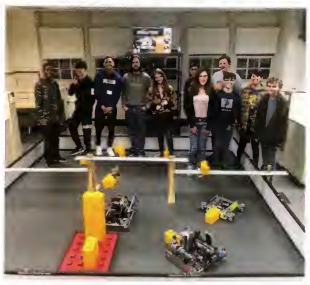
The Rock Island High School Robotics Team has given themselves the name Robotic Radiation. Robotic Radiation is one of thousands of First Tech Challenge Robotics teams. This year, the First Tech Challenge Robotic's competition challenged teams to build a robot that could move and stack large lego type bricks. This year's members of the Robotic Radiation worked together to design, build, and program a robot named, Fall Out. Fall Out was able to move in any direction, as well as pick up and stack the large lego type bricks. The team learned a great deal about engineering and the design process while building the robot, but they also had a lot of fun! One of the team sponsors, Mrs. Dennis, said, "The team became fast friends. They worked really well together, and there was always quite a bit of joking and giggling at the meetings." In the end, every member of the team succeeded in building STEM skills. Senior member, Clarissa Lopez, said, "Robotics is a great way to get more students interested in STEM in a more fun and encouraging way. By the time they realize they are learning STEM skills, they are already so deep in having fun they don't want to leave!"

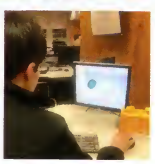
THE BEST BUILD

1st PLACE

James Walls

The number one best build goes to James Walls for building a machine that could move certain objects form one place to another.





ROBOTIC RADIATION'S RESPONSES

Brian Reed

"The reason I like robotics is because I get to build things, and work with the team. I am really proud of the robot we built this year. The arm we built to pick up blocks was a challenge, but we got it working."

James Walls

"During the year, Robotics has been my main priority. As of this year, I have acquired skills of building, teamwork, programming, and cooperation. I look forward to using these skills outside of robotics."

Morgan Engholm

"I enjoyed it because I got to work with a team of people that I did not know, but I got to know. The robot was fun to make. I got to learn how to do things I didn't know before."

Vanessa Mojica

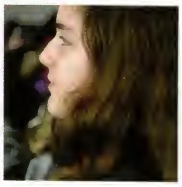
"My favorite memory of Robotics competitions was Hser teaching the team how to properly eat a donut."

"I think that it is something new and different from the usual sitting down for an hour routine. Instead of reading books, the whole time, we are always invested in our current project and moving around and interacting with each other which makes the whole thing feel different from the usual learning experience."
- James Walls

French CLUB

The French Club continues to take fun field trips and have group gatherings to encourage Rocky students to enjoy and learn more about the French culture.

Once again, Rocky's French Club had an exciting and fun filled year. The goals of French Club are simple, "To first and foremost, have fun. Secondly, students have a better understanding and exposure to the French culture," Mrs. Bouchareb, the club advisor, stated. This year's leaders include Spencer Mar, Shakira'a Gbenyo, Eh Yee, Sophie Uwamahoro, and Shaneeya Soumare. Mrs. Bouchareb, who is also a French teacher at Rocky, is especially excited about the future of the club, as the group has many freshmen, who seem to be very eager about joining and participating in the group. Each year, the group hosts a variety of parties and field trips. They start off the year with a picnic with the German Club, a favorite event of the groups. They also have a Mardi Gras Party and a holiday party. The group also takes a field trip to Augustana to see French films, as well as a trip to Chicago to see paintings from French artists.

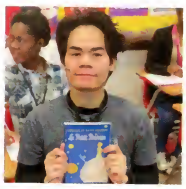


we share our love for the French language and culture. We bring culture to Rock Island High School, where we want to spread our love for French culture to everyone. "I love French because it's a fun environment to be in, and Madame B and Madame Pearson are amazing, and I love getting to see them every day," said Kaylea Roessler.

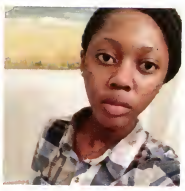
Pardon

Our French

President
Uwamahoro Sophie



Vice President
Eh Yee



Vice President
Shakira'a Gbenyo

Treasurer
Spencer Mar

Secretary
Shaneeya Soumare

FAVORITE GERMAN CLUB ACTIVITY

"My favorite activity is when we watch movies and play games after school."
Calvin Banks

"My favorite activity was when we participated in decorating the hallway for Homecoming."
Cody Swisher

"My favorite activity we did would have to be going on the German trip."
Herr Eli

Homecoming Parade

German IV Seniors

German Club

The German Club is run by the German teacher, Herr Eli. The President of German Club is Calvin Banks. Cody Swisher and Carson Conger are Co-Vice Presidents. Olivia Johnson is the Secretary. These students help plan events for German Club. "The purpose of the club is to provide a time and place for students who are interested in speaking German and learning more about the culture of Germany, and to do so together," said Herr Eli.

Every year during Homecoming Week, members of German Club walk in the parade and decorate the hallway. "I hope kids learn more about the German language and culture, while having fun, and hanging out with their friends from other German classes," stated Herr Eli.

Every Tuesday, German Club meets after school to play games or to plan upcoming events that they think would be fun to celebrate. "Activities that the club participates in include the welcome back and farewell picnics, German movie nights, the Oktoberfest potluck, playing board games, puzzles and word games in German, and lastly, the field trip to the Chicago Christmas market in December," said Herr Eli.

During the month of October, members of German Club celebrate "Oktoberfest." Everyone who participates in German Club or has German class gets together and brings all types of snacks from home for everyone to enjoy. This year, they watched the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas" after school hours to get into the "Spooky" spirit.

During the Christmas season, German Club sells Advent calendars for anyone to buy. The calendars include German chocolate for each date until Christmas Day. The Club also went on their annual field trip to Chicago on December 3rd. "My favorite activity, this year, was the field trip to Chicago in December," said Herr Eli. The German Club went to the Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market) in Downtown Chicago. They also visited the Goethe Institute in Chicago, where they learned more about the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

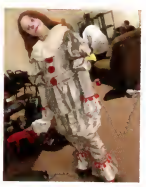
The German Club also celebrated with a Christmas party. Members exchanged secret Santa gifts while drinking hot cocoa and eating cookies.

Overall, the German Club had a fun year making many memories.

Chicago Christkindlmarkt

Goethe Institute

Halloween Movie Night



HERE at Rock Island High School, the German Club celebrates German culture. Their yearly back-to-school picnic took place on August 2019 at Longview Park. "I liked how we got to try different German foods and got to know other people who were interested in German," said Peh Lay. They celebrated with French Club. A variety of German, French, and American foods were served.

Rocking their FUTURE

Although many students say that they will not use what they are taught in high school in the future, the EL College Club proves this wrong. The EL College Club is run by EL teacher, Maria Schrup. "The goals of the club are for Senior EL students to learn about educational or training opportunities available to them after they graduate," said Ms. Schrup. The EL College Club advances these students in a way that they never have before. Students are given new opportunities to take a look at their futures and decide what fits them best and what will make them successful. "They come to believe that they can, with continual effort, complete college and enjoy a career doing what they love and making a good income from that," said Ms. Schrup.

the EL College Club plans their futures of success. The students are given opportunities they have never had. Here, students receive help on college applications and financial aid applications. Some of these students are the first in their family to attend college, and this club helps them go there confidently.

RIHS Welding 2019-2020

Anthony Lioen , 12

Kenyhon Yancey, 12

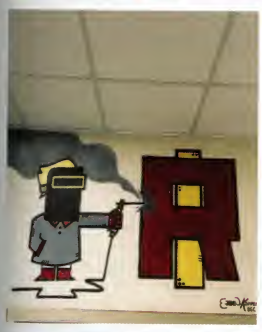
Todd Poe, 11

Kyle Hendricks,11

Zachary Martin, 12

HERE

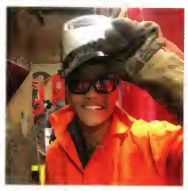
Welding HERE at Rocky is another amazing program offered, and teaches our young men or women how to be skilled welders. The main goal of the group is "as a class, to make sure the students know and master the skill of welding and all of the tools and equipment used in manufacturing or field setting," says leader, Wade Weber.



Ethan Kopplin: Senior Ethan Kopplin painted the top 2 paintings, the first one on December 20th, 2018, and the second on May 30th, 2019. Ethan said he "saw the original painting on the door, and that became his inspiration to recreate that." Each painting took 3 weeks, and helped fuel his artistic career.

WELDING ROCKS

"All of the lessons learned on how to work hard and as a group."



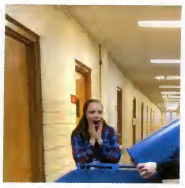
James Walls, 11
"I took welding because the juniors last year said it was fun, and to get into it. My favorite part is being happy when I lay down a weld."

Eh Doh, 11
"I joined welding, at first, just to get a credit, and I thought about dropping it at the beginning of the year, but now, I'm really interested in it. My favorite part was getting to work on the four wheeler."

Mason Hedburg, 11
"I joined because I wanted to learn so it could help me later on in life. My favorite part was working on the four wheeler and fixing chairs."

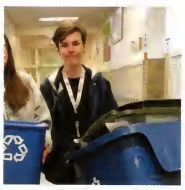
Rocky's Welding Program is all about meeting your goals and working hard. Leaders Wade Weber and Mark Laingen hope students learn "how to be a skilled welder and become knowledgeable with all of the tools of the trade, as it relates to working in the trades or manufacturing," through their time in the program. They take field trips to local businesses, they visit John Deere Harvester, Crawford Company, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union Local 25, and Sheetmetal Workers Union Local 91. "The purpose of the trip is for students to see and learn what types of jobs are available to them in the industry with different kinds of companies," said Weber.

Environmental Action Club

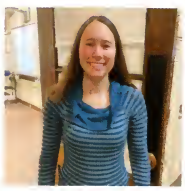


"EAC is a way for me to actively help the environment. I love doing volunteer work and educating others. I get to preach and represent Rock Island High School."
Allyson Smithson, 11

"I want to make a difference in the environment! I want to be educated on things I can do to help our Earth. It feels really good to know that I am doing what I can to make the Earth a better place for everyone!"
Ava Coussens, 10

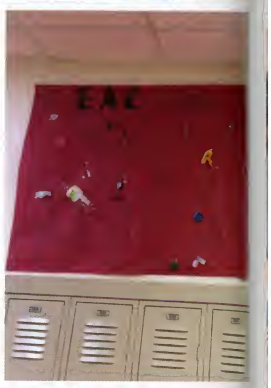


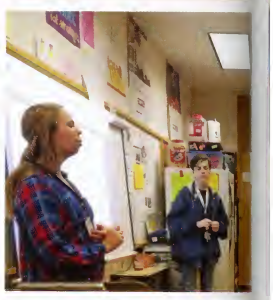
"It is a way to give back to our community and our environment in a fun and efficient way."
Drew Jarding, 10



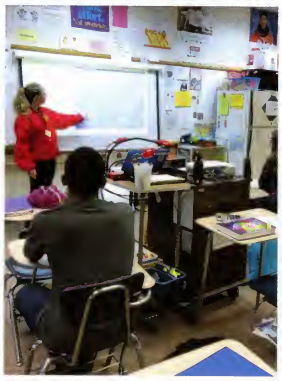
"I love seeing our RIHS students helping to make the world a better place!"
Mrs. Grayson

The Environmental Action Club here at Rock Island High School is all about making the world around us a better place. This club was taken over by Mrs. Grayson and Mr. Dunker, two RIHS teachers. "Our goal is to help our environment by promoting environmentally friendly practices, and to enjoy the nature we have around us," said Grayson. The EAC loves to give back to the community and the nature around us, but they do also get a lot out of being in the group. "We hope people grow their love for nature and learn how to take care of it," said Grayson. Everyone involved in the EAC has a deep love for nature and taking care of it. The world around us needs to be taken care of, and the EAC does that for us.

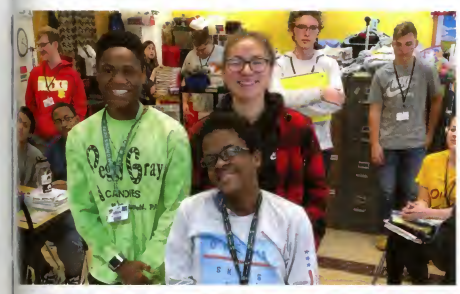


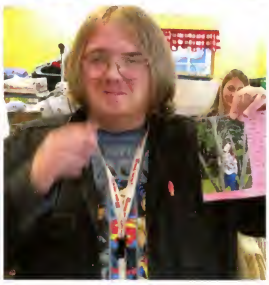


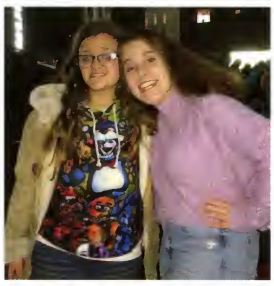
Drew Jarding and Allyson Smithson pose for a picture, while they advertise the Environmental Action Club at the Course Description Night the high school hosted.



Allyson Smithson gives a presentation on what the club is and describes the changes we are seeing in our environment.

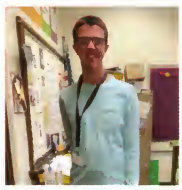






BEST BUDDIES FOREVER

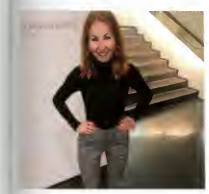
Best Buddies is a program that partners general education Rocky students with their peers, who are enrolled in the special service classes. Liam Haskill, a senior, brought the idea to the district Speech/Language Pathologist, Lisa Martens, who helped implement a chapter here at Rocky. "I think it is wonderful for general education students (Peer Buddies) to get to know the students in my classroom (Buddies). I hope they get to know them as well as I do and appreciate all of their abilities," says Martens. By pairing students at Rocky based off of like interests, the group is able to create a more supportive environment. Haskill says, "It has been great to start something that can do a lot of good." As this program continues, more friendships will be made and flourish.



"I like to hang out with my buddy. We play video games together. Speaking of Best Buddies, Liam will text me sometimes."
Colin Benisch, 12

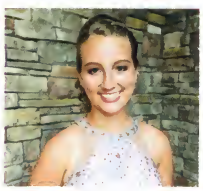
"I just like to be friendly. I like to be kind to everyone."
Lyric Nolin, 11

"I want to make new friends instead of just old friends. I like my two friends I have. They're actually really nice."
Frank Holmes, 9



"I joined Best Buddies to get more involved with students that don't always get the same high school experience that I do, and to just give them an outlet to meet new people."
Ella Spence, 11

"I joined Best Buddies because I feel as if everyone needs a friend or a buddy... (get it). I absolutely love helping people, making people feel loved, or having someone to hang out with."
Madison Chastain, 10



"I joined Best Buddies because I think everyone is equal in their own way! All the buddies are so fun and so nice! I love them all!"
Camryn Milefchik, 9

FANATIC READERS

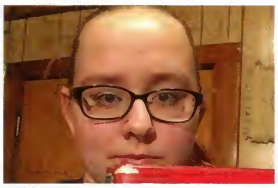
{How has the Reading Rocks affected you?}

"At the beginning of the year, I was interested in a club because I am a freshman, and I decided on Reading Rocks because I like reading a lot. Since I have been in Reading Rocks, I have had more opportunities to read more amazing books I never heard of."

Ireona Euring, Freshman

"Reading Rocks has impacted me in a great way. I made a lot of friends, and found out I am not alone, and there are people going through the same things."

Sage Oviatt, Sophomore

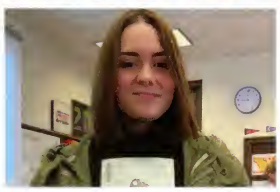


"I have read books that I would not normally read, and they have become my favorites."

Aubry Berry, Junior

"I was not sure about the Reading Rocks until my friend suggested it. I have learned some stuff from the books, and this has also helped me become a better reader."

Rebecca Ferguson, Sophomore



"It connected me with people who have the same interests, and I made new friends."

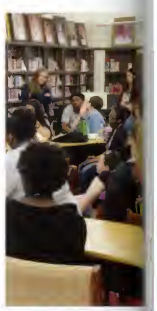
Jaime Swisher, Junior

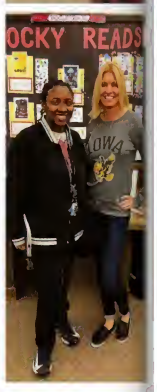
OUR VISITORS @ ROCKY HERE

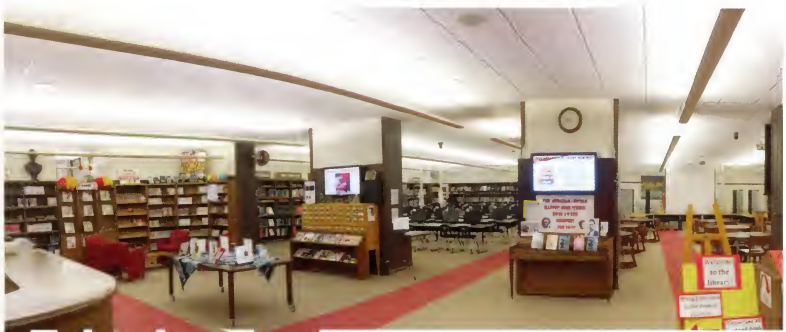
Jason Reynolds (right) is a famous author, who took the time to come visit Rock Island High School during the 2018-2019 school year .

The Reading Rocks Club was established during the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Curtiss and some of the students came up with the idea for the group. This is Mrs. Mendelin's third year involved with the Reading Rocks. "I have always been involved since I have been a librarian, and this is my third year as a librarian," says Mendelin. Both of the librarians thoroughly enjoyed the Jason Reynolds visit. Their favorite parts were seeing the students surrounding Reynolds and talking about everything they felt. Everyone who came greatly enjoyed Jason Reynolds' book talk at Rock Island High School. Reynolds spoke to the many students who waited excitedly for his arrival to Rocky, and had spent most of the year reading his books in preparation. He spoke about his life, the books he has written, and so much more that inspired the Rocks.

>>Your<< READING ROCKS







HERE at the Rock Island High School library, is where the Reading Rocks feel at home the most. The Reading Rocks read a variety of books each year, and work with the Rock Island Library, as well. **HERE**, all students are welcome.

READING ROCKS: Then and Now

Then. The Reading Rocks started 7 years ago, and began slowly. During their first year, the average number of attendance was around five students. On some occasions, the meetings would only consist of the librarians and one other student!

Now. The Reading Rocks have changed in many ways over the years. The students used to vote on the books they wanted to read and discuss, "but in the last few years, we have been using the Abe Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award nominated books as our reading list, still voting on which ones the students want to read and discuss. This makes the Reading Rocks the ambassadors to the school for that state wide book award, and it has been amazing to see that initiative growing at Rocky," said Mrs. Curtiss.

LITERACY **LEADERS**

Mrs. Mendelin **Mrs. Curtiss**

[What do you enjoy most about the **Reading Rocks**?*]*

"There is a huge variety of students. We have freshmen, juniors, boys, girls, a big mix."

"I like hearing what the kids have to say about books," says Curtiss. "Every meeting we have, I learn something." new."

The Meetings. A usual meeting for the Reading Rocks consists of multiple discussions of the books they read together. The students also receive new books to begin reading for the future meetings ahead.

JUNIORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE HERE

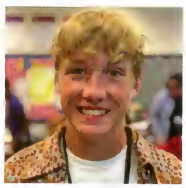
Juniors improve Rocky and the community one step at a time.

"I like volunteering and helping out the school."
Aubry Berry, 11

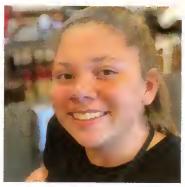
"I like making a difference and being a voice in the student body."
Albany Gray, 11

"I get to improve Rocky by helping students, painting the school, and volunteering throughout the local elementary schools for LEAD."
Jonathan Knuth, 11

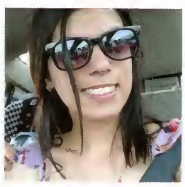
"I like helping and getting involved in the community."
Kyle Gant, 11



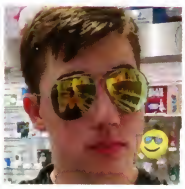
"I like to be able to help around the school and helping the community."
Jalie Green, 11



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



"I am going to miss helping my community with my friends."
Sevilya Alieva



"I am going to miss having a leadership role in the community."
Solomon Gustafson

"I am going to miss all the activities we did together."
Nu Nu Khin

Student Ambassadors

The Student Ambassadors are an amazing group of students who want to make the Rock Island community and high school a better and more welcoming place to all who are involved here.

Andrea Parer

As the main coordinator of Student Ambassadors, Parer loves working with new students who want to help improve the school and the community. Parer adds, "I get to interact with some of the best kids on a regular basis, as we help make the building better."

Mike Mertel

As a coordinator for the Student Ambassadors, Mr. Mertel likes to know that there are students who are willing to help improve their communities. Mertel states, "I like seeing young people take on a role in their community and develop leadership skills within the programs and events that we do."

STUDENT AMBASSADORS TO THE RESCUE

Student Ambassadors are students who come together and make the school and the community a better place. The Student Ambassadors help sell products from community organizations, like S.P.A.R.K. The group also helps younger students in the district through the LEAD Program, held at two of Rock Island's grade schools. The Ambassadors also help to improve the appearance of the school, to make the building a home for everyone. "I like that I have a connection with the community, and I like that I am involved at the school," stated Tiffany O'Leary. Before becoming a Student Ambassador, students go through an interview process. Mrs. Parer and Mr. Mertel, the advisors, interview potential Ambassadors, and eventually choose the 60 students who will represent Rocky. "We look for people who want to make the school and community a better place," stated Mr. Mertel. Mr. Mertel and Mrs. Parer's goal is that everyone after Student Ambassadors can go help the community and be successful. They want Ambassadors to be "Successful human beings in life, the community, or wherever they may be in the future," stated Mrs. Parer. Student Ambassadors want to make Rock Island High School, as well as the community, a better and more welcoming place to be every single day.

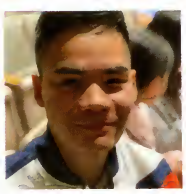
Student Ambassadors walked in the Homecoming Parade as flag carriers.

The Student Ambassadors worked with S.P.A.R.K. to sell the new and creative S.P.A.R.K. T-Shirts. The Ambassadors have also partnered with the organization for a few years, and helped encourage RIHS students to speak openly about mental health.

The Student Ambassadors volunteered at many fall frolics and Halloween parties at grade schools.

"I am going to miss helping around with the elementary school kids."

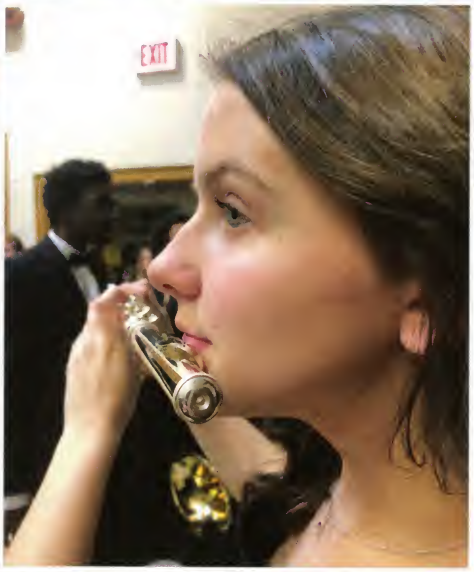
Uwamahoro Sophie

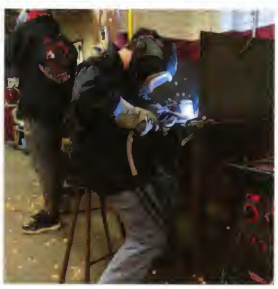
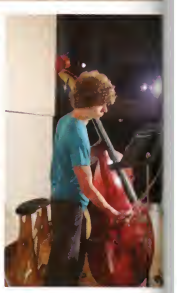


"I am going to miss being a part of the every day meetings."

Eh Yee

is the place where Student Ambassadors call home. The students work to help Rocky get involved in the community. "We can make the building better and might help making the district better," stated Mrs. Parer. The Ambassadors work hard to make everyone here feel involved and welcomed.



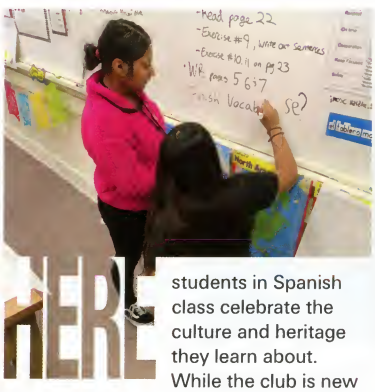
LEARNING TO LASO

This year, Rocky students started a new club, LASO, which celebrates Latino culture and traditions. The club advisor, Ms. Ramirez, stated, "The purpose of the club is to provide a scholastic, social, and cultural environment to our organization. To bring unity and pride among Latino students here at Rocky." Students decided to start LASO in order to have a greater voice at Rocky, and to help develop a sense of home at the school among Latino/ Latina students. In the group's inaugural year, they have been actively involved in the community. Ms. Ramirez stated, "We have participated in activities throughout the community, such as VIVA Quad Cities, Día de los Muertos at the Figge, various events at El Mercado on Fifth, and volunteered at the Halloween Parade in Moline, college visits and other educational activities." The group was led by Ms. Ramirez, Yvette Perez (President), Brayan Perez (VP), and Bailey Ramirez (Secretary).

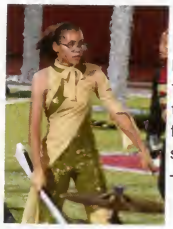
HOCO '19

This year, LASO participated in the RIHS Homecoming Parade. They proudly marched with their banner to encourage more people to join their group.

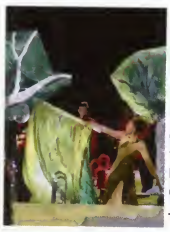
ABOVE: The LASO members prepare their banner for the Homecoming Parade. Ms. Ramirez explained, "My favorite memory has been the students becoming so involved in preparing their banner for the Homecoming Parade."



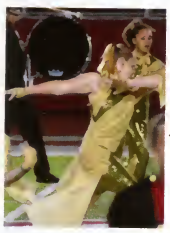
HERE students in Spanish class celebrate the culture and heritage they learn about. While the club is new to the high school, the club is passionate about its cause.



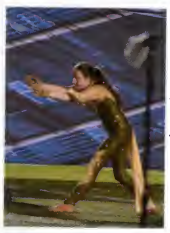
"I think my favorite memory would have to be having the ability to die at the end of my freshman year show *Wacked Poe-tic.*"
- Aaliyah Smith



"My favorite memory from Color Guard is during my Junior year, when it snowed during band camp, and the guard went outside and waited for the band for a half an hour and listened to Christmas music."
- Anna Rowell

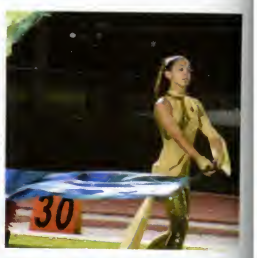


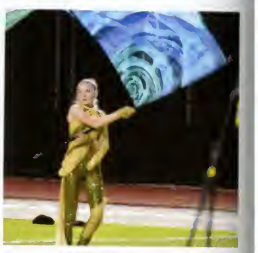
"My favorite memory is being able to grow and bond with new people every year."
- Morgan Nesbitt

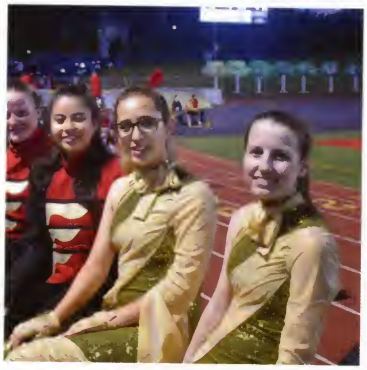


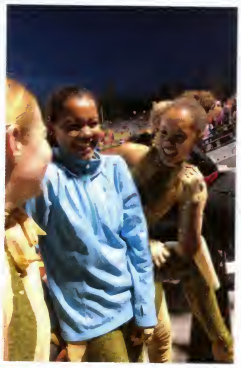
"My favorite memory is when the guard is doing jokes and silly chants."
- Kaitlyn Mandel

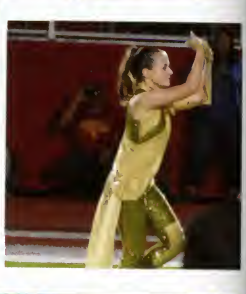
"My favorite memory would be placing at ISU and performing in finals during my junior year."
- Vanessa Mojica

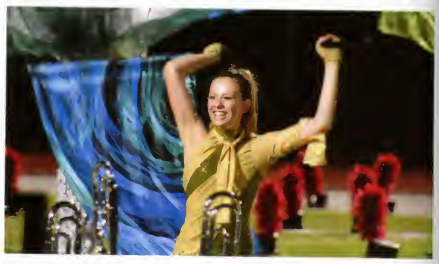






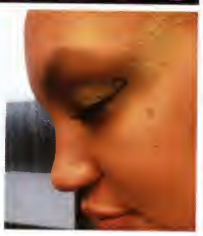






Into the forest we go

There was a headband that had leafy greenery, which really completed the woodland nymph look.



The makeup was mostly green, with hints of gold, and a loop connected to the eyeliner.

The Guard's uniforms this year were mostly olive gold sequins with a gold/cream metallic velvet sewn in.

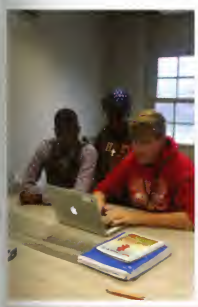
HERE

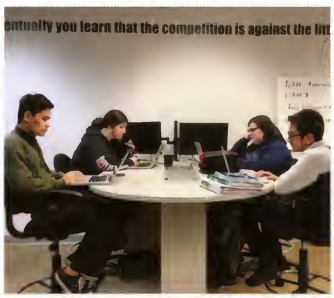
on the football field, the Guard spends countless days learning the drill and guard work. Their hard work is in preparation for the competitions and performances that make the season so much fun. "The stadium is where I have the most fun with people in band, and I've cried many happy tears," stated Isabel Drish. This is where we make memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

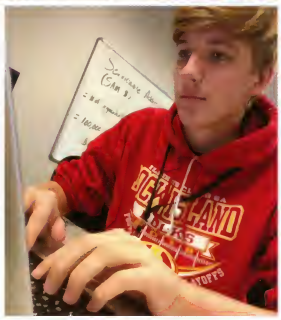
"I like that I get to work with a group that is willing to put in the work to help each other, and I also like that I get to start a business that is helping the world."
Jevantez Allen

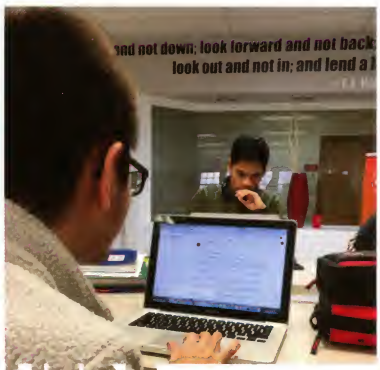
"It's different from any other class. It's a new thing every day."

Colton Sigel

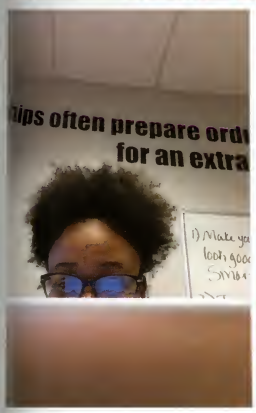


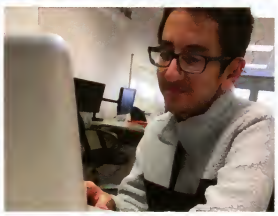


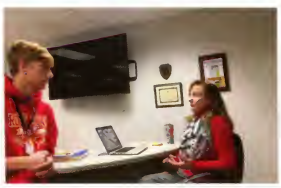


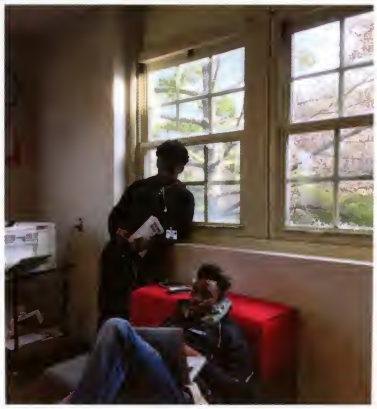


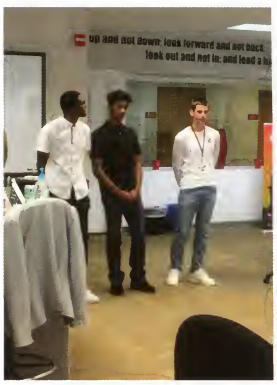
HERE in the Entrepreneurship classroom, Rocky students become businessmen and women, and not just high school students.





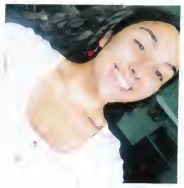






Rocks Get To Work

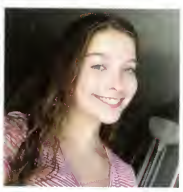
Entrepreneurship is a course Rocky offers for students who hope to learn how to start their own business. They learn skills necessary to be successful in the future and students attend various activities and pitch competitions throughout the year. They go to events like the Embrace Your Race luncheon, the ACT-SO Pitch Competition, and the Rotary luncheons. Mrs. Matson says that the "ultimate goal is to build a business that makes a profit, and to win $5,000 to start your business." In this class, students get the opportunity to become entrepreneurs, learn from community mentors, and build a foundation for a business. The class is certainly not a traditional one, and Mrs. Matson has worked to build a very real world experience class, where her students can be prepared for a career in business.



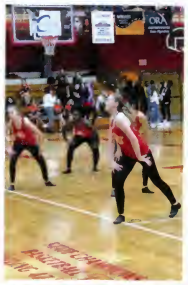
"My favorite thing about being on the Rockettes Dance Team is that we choreograph our own dances. We come together as a team and just have fun making up dances, and then we have the opportunity to show our talent at the basketball games."
Valerie Holland, 11

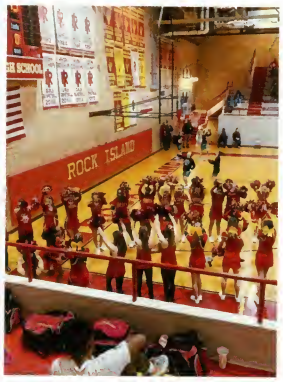
"I get to show school spirit through something that I love to do."
Lauren Gant, 9

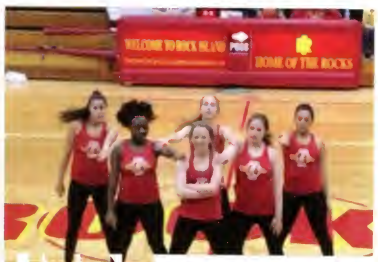
"My favorite thing about being on the Dance Team was being a part of something new to Rocky, and being able to show that it deserves to be a long time thing in the future. It was also very fun being able to create new bonds and getting closer to friends."
Kaylee Plohr, 9



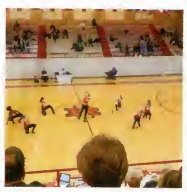
"My favorite thing about the Dance Team is entertaining the crowd and being able to do my favorite thing since I was little."
Maura Chandler, 11



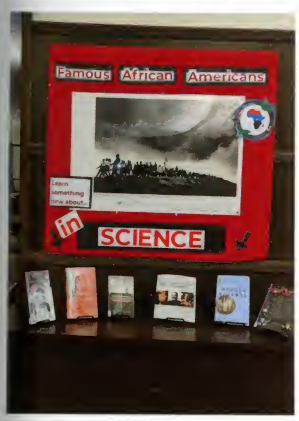


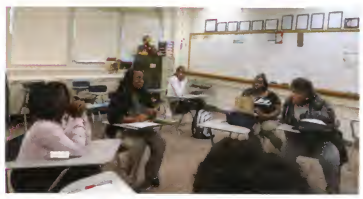


This is the first year that there has been a Dance Team HERE at Rocky. This is the first year Mrs. Shanley Resch has coached the Rockettes, and this is the first Dance Team to be represented at Rocky in recent years. The Rockettes performed at both the girls basketball games and the boys basketball games. They rocked the games with their choreography and teamwork. The team ranges from seniors to freshmen, with all grades in between. The group is all girls, and they show other girls that they can do anything they put their minds to. These girls are making history.



TOP LEFT. Dance Team members gather for a group photo in their flannels.
TOP MIDDLE. The Dance Team performs in front of the crowd during the girls basketball game during halftime. "Right when we line up and go on the court, I get really nervous, but once the music starts and after a couple seconds, the nerves go away, and I get hyped up," said Maura Chandler.
TOP RIGHT. The Dance Team shows spirit with the RIHS Cheerleaders, getting the crowd ready for the game.





The African American Heritage Club

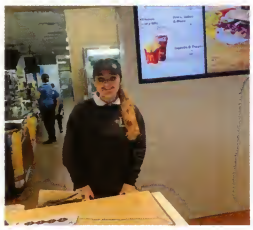
Training tomorrow's leaders!

The African American Heritage Club's goals are to help students discover their identities and learn more about their culture. Not only this, but they also talk about the history of their culture, as well. The students involved with this club attend a variety of events to promote higher education and positive images and perspectives of the African American culture. They go on college tours, have movie nights, attend workshops with professional African Americans, and participate in round table discussions about important topics. Many events take place in the QC to help the students learn and explore the history of African Americans. This group has meetings, discussions, and even job shadowing opportunities, so the students can interact and learn from a professional viewpoint. The students are even involved in community services in the QC area. Mrs. Grandberry- Pugh, the leader of the group, hopes that the students involved will eventually become "leaders and advocates in their adult life." There are many leaders for this group, including, Armonni Parks (President), Jada Gay (Vice President), Adria Scott (Secretary), Edgar Grandberry (Treasurer), and Uwamahoro Sophie.

HERE the students and staff advisors of the African American Heritage Club work to celebrate the rich cultural history and achievements of African Americans. The group also goes on college visits around the area.

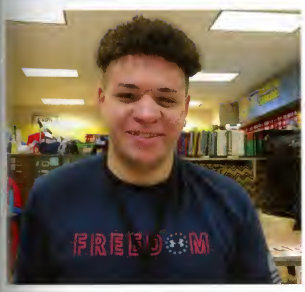
CWT: WORKING AT THE ROCK

The Cooperative Work Training Program is a class "to prepare students for life after high school. We discuss a variety of topics throughout the course, including workplace laws and safety, ethics, communication, responsibility, payroll, taxes, resume writing, and interview skills," explained Mrs. Dieudonne, the teacher and coordinator of the class. The course is popular for juniors and seniors, who are employed in the community, and are looking to improve their on the job skills. This year, Mrs. Dieudonne notes that Airana Johnson, Jyasmeen Jones, Valeur Nkurikiyinka, Ben Smith, Sydney Boyle, Fabris Kasukulu, and Gustavo Medrano have especially stood out as student leaders within the group. Students learn their workplace skills in class, and then get observed by Mrs. Dieudonne at their places of work. Mrs. Dieudonne explains, "I love going to my students' job sites and seeing them at work. It's always fun to see how they interact with their co-workers while they are on the job."



at Rocky, the CWT Program students learn valuable skills to carry with them after their time here. Mrs. Dieudonne states, "I hope that students learn the skills needed to be successful in school and on the job!"

GETTING INTO THE MIX

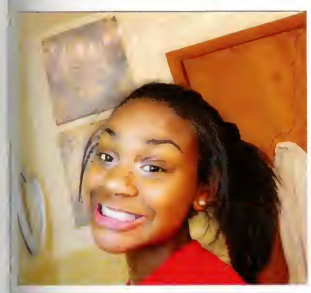


"With Best Buddies, I have been able to make new friends and have fun."
Shawn Gingry

"I joined Drama Club because I love acting. I was motivated by the other people in Drama Club."
Ella Hansen

"I joined Journalism because I like being involved as much as I can, and I thought it'd be cool to say I helped make the yearbook."
Kailyn Sanders

"I joined Student Council because it stands out on college applications, and it gets you involved with the community. I've always loved helping others."
Chloe Cooper

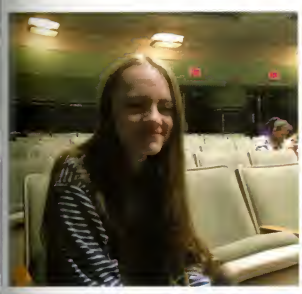


"Student Council because I like helping in big events, and it motivates others to join when they hear how fun it is while still helping."
Nina Hamilton

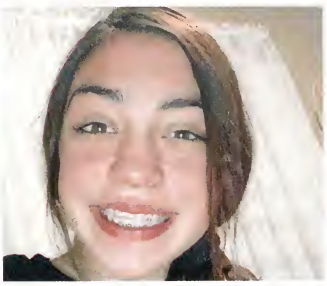
"I joined Drama Club because I love the Theatre Department, and I enjoy being in the club."
Carter Cupp

"I joined Student Council because I wanted to help with the events throughout the year, and I like giving back to my community."
Kaiya McKinley

"I joined the Riveters because I'm very passionate about empowering women and wanted to do so with my friends."
Chloe Shomo



"I joined Drama Club because I love acting and wanted to meet new people who shared an interest in theatre."
Abigail Hauskins



"I joined the Rocky Riveters because it seemed like a lot of fun and would help me become more confident, which it has."
Abie McCrady

"[During RockTime] my buddies come in and play games with me."
Fred Venable

"I like being a Student Ambassador because I can help my community and the people in it. I can meet new people, while having fun and giving back."
JaRaya Carr

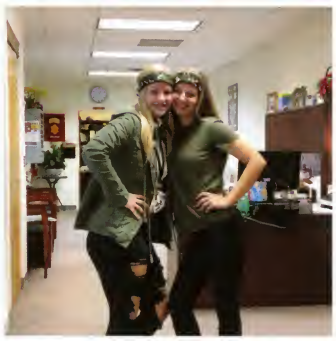
HERE

at Rocky, whether you are here at Almquist Field, the Rock Garden, or just walking the halls, you have an important role in Student Life. No matter where you get involved, we are all family here. Whether you tailgate in the parking lot with your friends, chant with the band, warm up with the team, or support the freshmen on Friday nights, we all represent Student Life here at the Rock. Maybe you collect t-shirts sold from clubs, or your favorite sporting team. You might even go to your first high school dance, participate in your first Spirit Week, attend your first Dance Marathon, join your first club, or become a part of the Quarry Crazies here. In 5, 10, 15, or even 20 years from now, when you're attending class reunions, you'll look back at the person you were, and the styles you were into. Students here at RIHS bleed Crimson and Gold. Once a Rock, always a Rock!

QUARRY
CRAZIES

Rock Island
Rocks
Class of 2021

JERSEY



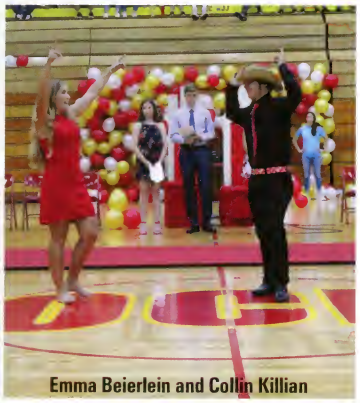
CAMO

CLASSIC COLOR

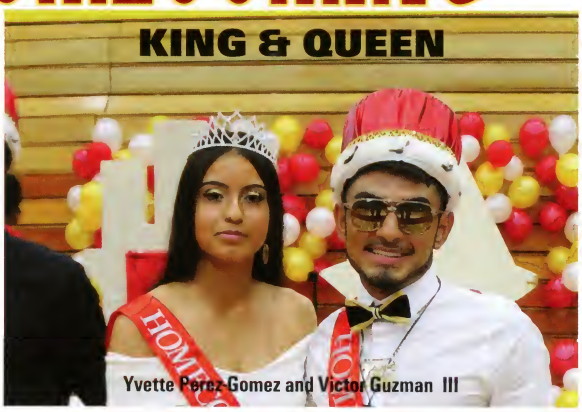
THROW BACK

Red & Gold

HOMECOMING Court

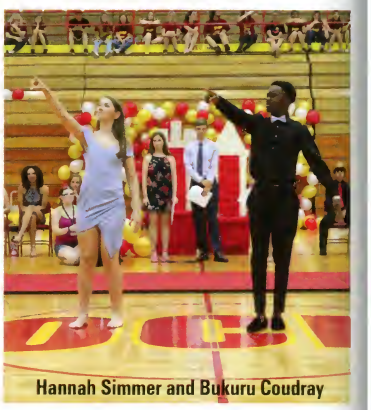


Emma Beierlein and Collin Killian

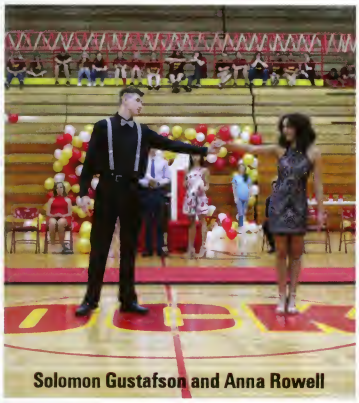


KING & QUEEN

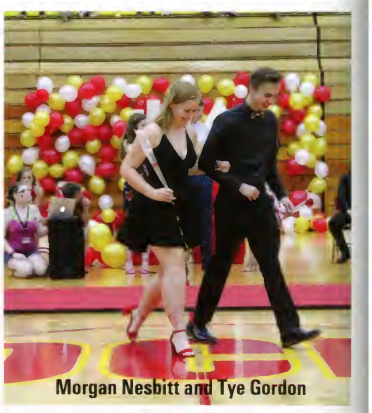
Yvette Perez-Gomez and Victor Guzman III



Hannah Simmer and Bukuru Coudray

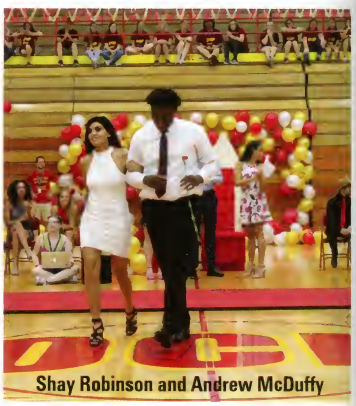


Solomon Gustafson and Anna Rowell



Morgan Nesbitt and Tye Gordon

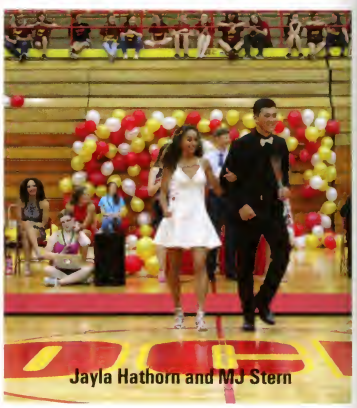
Vincent Esposito and Maggie Honeycutt



Shay Robinson and Andrew McDuffy

Jayvionna Jalloh and Ja'Kye Hill

Jada Gay and Aminia Mashimango



Jayla Hathorn and MJ Stern

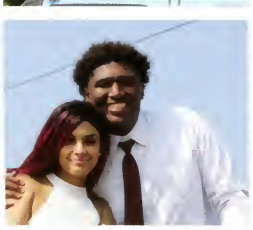
HOMECOMI
COMECOMIN

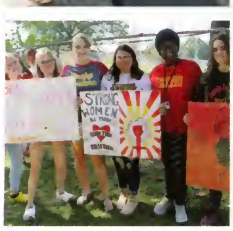
Eriksen
CHEVROLET

LASO

RHS ORCHESTRA

IMPACT





Do It Yourself

Elyse O'Brien

Say Say

Lainey Benson and Jonathan Knuth

Miranda Igo and Austin Fisher

Katherine Shewell

Olivia Panegos

Hannah Drish and Calvin Banks

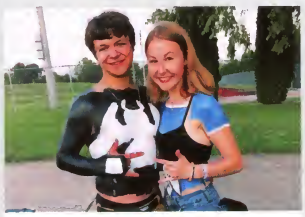
Tana Hogan

VSCO Friendship Bracelets

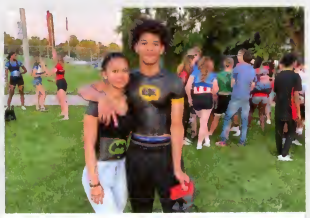
Senior Elyse O'Brien, pictured top left with her friend Demario Rankin, enjoys making friendship bracelets in her free time. "I like to surprise my friends with small gifts, and friendship bracelets are always that perfect sentiment!" O'Brien said.

Homecoming/Prom Proposals

Junior Jonathan Knuth, pictured at the top right, asked his friend Lainey Benson to Homecoming this year with a Beauty and the Beast poster. "I love Disney personally, and I knew that it would be so cute for asking her to the dance," Knuth said.



Collin Killian and Ella Spence



Kristen Williams

Ethan Kirkpatrick and Alayna Amidon

Zoe Veasey and Ellie Maranda

Cassidy DeMeyer and Ella Spence

Farrah Kraklow and Kenzie Crimmins

Tristinn Davis, Siobhan Dunn, Nick Alt, and Ethan Kopplin

RHS Drama Club

Painting Up for Games

Senior Collin Killian, pictured top left, paints up for football games. His favorite part of the tradition is "Getting to talk and hang out around all the other students with school spirit."

Halloween Costumes

Many students, like senior Ethan Kirkpatrick, made their own costumes for Halloween. "I was Three Hole Punch Jim from *The Office*. It was literally just three circles of black paper, but it was fun to make," Kirkpatrick said.

A Day in the Life of a Rock

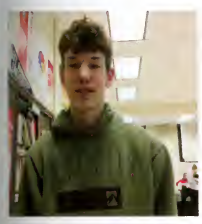
Freshman

Mireya Aleman

6:30 AM	Wake up and get ready for school
7:30 AM	Leave the house and come to school
3:18 PM	Rehearsal for the Fall Play
6:00 PM	Eat dinner after rehearsal
7:35 PM	Take a shower
8:00 PM	Relax
10:00 PM	Go to sleep

Sophomore

Pearce Lelonek



7:15 AM	Wake up and take a 15 minute shower
8:00 AM	Eat then go to school
3:45 PM	I get home and work on homework
4:30 PM	Finish homework and play video games
6:30 PM	Attempt to make plans with friends
8:00 PM	Eat dinner
11:30 PM	Go to sleep

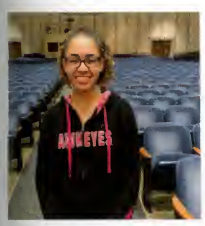
Junior

Donovan Garro

7:00 AM	Wake up
8:00 AM	Cross Country practice
10:00 AM	Breakfast with family at home
12:00 PM	Go to the Y to play basketball with friends
3:00 PM	Lunch on the go and spend time at home
7:00 PM	Dinner with the family
10:00 PM	Sleep

Senior

Bianca Brown



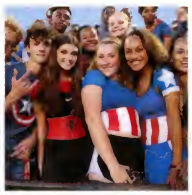
6:40 AM	Wake up and get ready
7:35 AM	Leave the house for school
4:00 PM	Get home from school and eat
5:00 PM	Start working on homework
7:00 PM	Chill and eat again
9:00 PM	Shower
10:30 PM	Go to bed

FANS IN THE STANDS

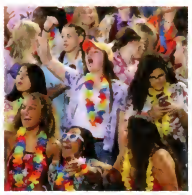
"The energy is just exciting, and it is fun watching my friends on the team do what they love, and being there to support them."
- Tyler Tipton

"It is a great way to get our school together and show some pride for the team. #gorocks!"
- Hannah Simmer

"Everyone is supportive and cheering when we are winning and when we are losing. That shows a lot."
- Amarion Nimmers



"I love to see everyone come together and support our team as a whole."
- Savannah Debus

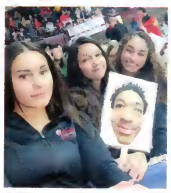


"I love cheering on my team with fellow classmates."
- Madolynn Finley

"I like getting in the opponent's head and help leading the section. It's always a good time making a group effort to cheer on our team."
- Vincent Esposito

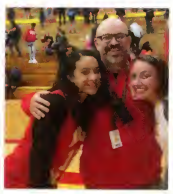
"I feel more involved and I love cheering on the boys with my peers."
- Morgan Freeman

"It's fun to support the team with my friends."
- Olivia Bowman



"I like waving goodbye to the losing team, or screaming at the top of my lungs."
- Jayla Hathorn

"I like when we all meet up to go cheer on the team."
- Matt Crone



"The best part about the games is dressing up for the themes."
- Natalia Gabriel

"The student section is very energetic, and I love how it brings everyone together."
- Mateo Pena

"I love supporting my friends, and it's one of the times it's okay to be very crazy."
- Elijah Boeye

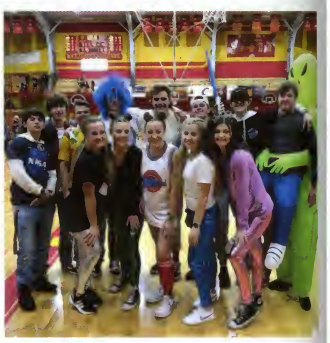
"I like being surrounded by my friends to cheer on our school."
- Lauryn Dempsey

Siblings in the Student Section

Collin and Chloe Killian

Jayden and Jayla Upton

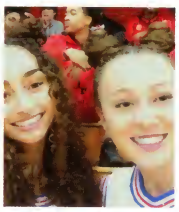
Kristen and Cori Williams



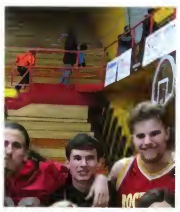
QUARRY CRAZIES

"I like dressing up and cheering with my friends."
Hannah Drish, 12

"I like having a connection with my peers and working together to cheer on the team."
Savannah Debus, 12

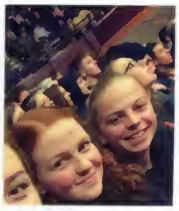


"I like doing the themes and cheering on the team."
Josie Pennington, 12



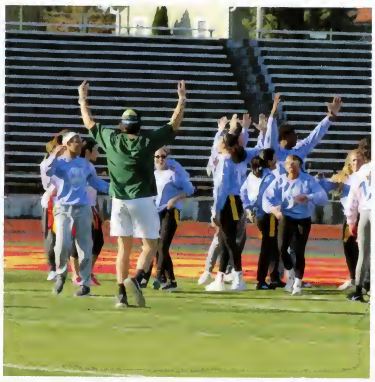
"I like going all out for the themes and being as loud as I can."
Ashton Timm, 12

"I like supporting the team with a good group of friends."
Joseph Dilulio, 12

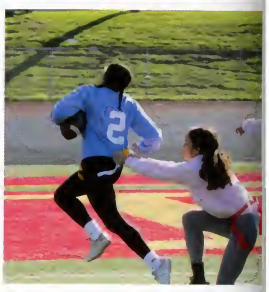


"I like cheering on the basketball team and dressing up with my friends."
Bailey Tripilas, 12

Powderpuff



Top: Participants of the 2019 Powderpuff Game pose for the camera on the field after the game. **Left**: Seniors, Amelia Peña, Marice Dodd, Briseidy Lopez, and Emma Beierlein line up on the offensive line. **Right**: Seniors huddle while they try to learn a new play from Coach Stern.



Top Left: The Seniors cheer after scoring a touchdown. **Top Right**: The Seniors huddle before the game to get pumped. **Bottom Left**: The Seniors pose with a "W" after winning 26-6. **Bottom Right**: Senior Jada Gay scores a touchdown shortly after starting the game.

SENIORS 26

"No practices + Two Coaches = Dub!"
- Marice Dodd

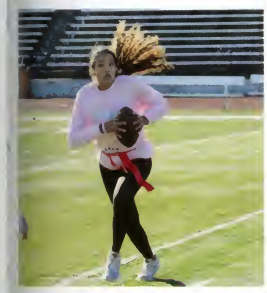
"We showed up not knowing what to do, but we still ended up with the dub!"
- Morgan Freeman

"They say practice makes perfect. We didn't practice, but we're still perfect."
- Raghen Walker

Football

"I thought being the quarterback was gonna be easy, but it turns out, it is the hardest position."
- Jamyah Winter

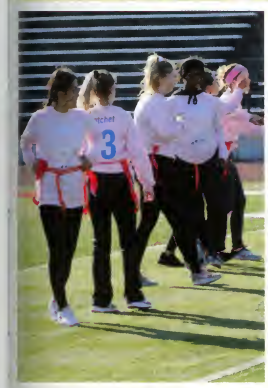
"At one point in the game, I thought we were on defense, but we were on actually on offense."
- Cassidy DeMeyer



"I was running so hard I forgot about my patella tendinitis."
- Natalia Gabriel

JUNIORS 6

Bottom Left: The Junior girls discuss the next play with Coach Slater. **Bottom Right**: The Juniors huddle around coaches to chant before the game. **Top Left**: The Coaches and the players on the sideline watch the game. **Top Right**: Juniors, Serah Waqa, Valerie Holland, and Lauren Weeks talk between plays.



Top: The Juniors pose for a picture after the game. **Left**: The Junior players rest in between plays. **Right**: Three Juniors attempt to take Senior Morgan Freeman's flag down.

ROCK ISLAND
SENIOR POWDER PUFF
ROCK ISLAND BASS FISHING
RI
ROCK ISLAND
Empowered Women Empower the World
It Takes GRIT
Rocky Riveters
HERE
STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE
RIVER BEND FOODBANK
RIBS MARCHING Flutes 2019
Dedication Responsibility Education Attitude Motivation
ROCK ISLAND BOWLING INVITATIONAL 2019-2020
TO THE WORLD WE'RE A TEAM TO EACH OTHER WE'RE A FAMILY!!!
20 PRY NOT 20 PRY
RACHEN #1
HANNAH #9
KAITLYN #12
LAURYN #15
ELLA #18
ALEC
WHEN WE PULL UP WE KNOW
WE GOT NOTHING TO PROVE.
JUNIORS YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN
THE CLASS OF
IT'S JUST US IN THE GAME
TUG-OF-WAR
SENIORS
TIME2 BOUNCE
ROCK ISLAND
Rockettes
DANCE TEAM
We
Home
CNA Class 2020
ROCK ISLAND
VOLLEYBALL
SENIORS 2020
ROCK ISLAND SWIMMING & DIVING
ROCK ISLAND
TEAM OF FAMILY
ROCK ISLAND ROCKS
QUARRY CRAZIES
ROCK NATION
ROCK ISLAND
DM
TURN UP THE LOVE
SOPHOMORES
2019
POWDERPUFF
#FTK
ORCHESTRA
2019
HAVE
AVID
THINK... Learn... Read... ACHIEVE... CREATE... Succeed...
Rocks with College DREAMS
ROCK & ISLAND
ROCK ISLAND
FOOTBALL
ROCK ISLAND
SOFTBALL
Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof
RAI
HOMECOMING
THE ONE WHERE THEY ARE
JUNIORS
SEASON 20 EPISODE 1
ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL
Choir
2019
Spirit
2019-2020
GERMAN CLUB
#FORTHEKID
We're a really Big Deal
8
POWDERPUFF
2019
#FTK
Juniors
Oliver!
RIBS
DM
2019
JUNIORS
Powderpuff Football
2019
BARITONE
Soul of the Band
BLOCK the stigma
DIG the purpose
You Matter!

Amarion Nimmers

"I dress this way because I like my outfits to stand out, and people can point me out of a crowd."

Siobhan Dunn

"My sense of style is generally androgynous. I take risks in color or pattern matching to prove to myself that I can wear whatever I want. Mostly, I just like to be comfy."

Osvaldo Perez

"I do fashion to tell a narrative."

Hannah Close

"I dress how I feel, which is how everyone should. I do not let anyone's opinions on my outfit bother me. Wear what you want and make yourself happy."

HERE WE HAVE Fashion

Jayla Hathorn

"Matching is my favorite thing to do and it is a way for people to remember who I am."

Katherine Shewell

"My style changes weekly, but I really like taking boys' clothes and making them look feminine."

Calvin Banks

"Just call me the khaki king, please."

Brooklynn Larson

"I like to dress this way because it brings out the side of me that is not all about basketball."

United States of America
Germany
Democratic Republic of Congo
Tanzania
Mikhaila Sherrard
Nebraska
Lauryn Dempsey
California
Juliana Kruzic
Kansas
Nolan Pence
Florida
Madame Bouchareb
Morocco
Sentia Nishimwe
Arizona
Jusele Irambona
Texas
Maria Perez
Mexico
Shakira'a Gbenyo
Togo
Kristen Williams
Hawaii
Togo
Mexico
Morocco
Russia

Karen State
Myanmar
Japan
Australia
Herr Eli
College in
Berlin, Germany
Ms. Miers
College in
Berlin, Germany
Amid Barikzay
Moscow,
Russia
Lily Paw
Karen State,
Thailand
Peh Lay
Karen State,
Thailand
Mj Stern
Tokyo, Japan
Ceu Bik Lian
Myanmar
Daniel Mulongecha
Democratic
Republic
of Congo
Aminia Mashimango
Democratic
Republic
of Congo
Itangishatse Bujeni
Tanzania
Bukuru Coudray
Tanzania
Uwamahoro Sophie
Tanzania
Andrea Rangel
Exchange Student
in Melbourne, Australia
Thailand
Where in the world are
the Rocks from?

HEAP of the WEEK

Tristinn's heap, Frank, is a 1994 Honda Civic. He says, "It runs. That's all it does."
Tristinn Davis, 12

Eh's 2002 Honda Odyssey is named Beller. He says, "I guess it's funny looking, and it puts a smile on anyone who looks at it." It runs pretty well, it just has extra character with the flames on the side and duct taped stripes, he explains.
Eh Kler Tha, 11

Girtie, an old, quirky, and mostly reliable 86 S10 is Tiffany's heap. She states, "I love her because she got me from place to place. I knew all her quirks, and she heated up quickly when it was cold."
Tiffany O'Leary, 11

Rita, Ethan Kirkpatrick's heap is a 1999 Toyota 4Runner that has character. Ethan says, "Everything that goes wrong with Rita just adds to her charm." Rita is a heap because 3 out of the 4 wheels have popped, the battery has had to be replaced, and the bumpers are rusting.
Ethan Kirkpatrick, 12

Gwendalyn named her 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe, Jammy, because she said, "We be jammin' inside it." Jammy has had rusty car pieces fall off in the school parking lot, along with leaving Gwendalyn stranded on her way to school because it died on her.
Gwendalyn Waggoner, 12

Betsy, the Ford Mini Van, is Lauryn's heap. She says, "Betsy is a heap because there is a hole in the back of the car where you can see the road."
Lauryn Dempsey, 12

Francine, the Ford Focus, from 2001, is Morgan's heap. She makes weird humming sounds, her back window doesn't roll down, the radio shuts off on its own, and she leaks oil. Morgan said, "I have a missing mirror from the time I hit a traffic cone." Morgan loves Francine because the bass sounds good and she can surprisingly fit a lot of people in such a small heap.
Morgan Nesbitt, 12

"My heap is Romeo, a 1989 Delta 88 Oldsmobile. I love him because of his blue velvet seats. They feel like couch cushions. Romeo is considered a heap because the bass is blown in the speakers. Also, the passenger window doesn't roll down."
Collin Killian, 12

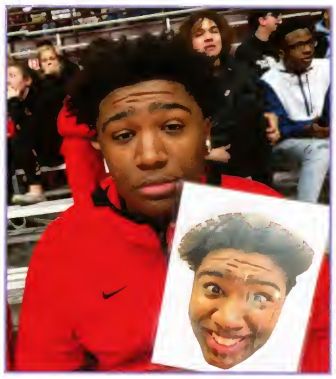
"My mini van's name is Sheila the KIA. At first, I was self conscious, but my friends hyped me up, saying it can fit the whole squad. I've popped 4 tires and caused a huge dent from running into the garage. Four of the five door handles don't work, and she has terrible gas mileage. I bought my van some cool stickers from Amazon to make it look better."
Lainey Benson, 11

Elllie's heap is Blue Madonna. She is a 2004 Toyota Camry. Ellie says, "I love it because it still runs well, even if it's ugly. It's what's on the inside that counts!" Blue Madonna has been in 2 car accidents, making her a heap.
Ellie Maranda, 12

"My heap's name is Nigel the Nissan, who was born in 2005. He often scares me and plays with my feelings when he doesn't turn on right away, but he gets me to where I need to go. The back doors don't have handles, so my friends can't get in. Nigel has about 3 dents, all different shapes and sizes, but looks don't matter. Love you Nigey-Pooh!"
Amelia Peña, 12

Betty is a 1999 Honda Accord. Brooke loves her heap because it's good on gas. She said, "Betty's paint job is whack." In order to listen to music, Brooke uses a cassette tape aux. cord. Betty's engine light is inconsistent, and all the doors squeak when they're open and closed.
Brooke Farrance, 11

"Whitey's"
Emily LeVan



"RIFAC"
Andrew McDuffy

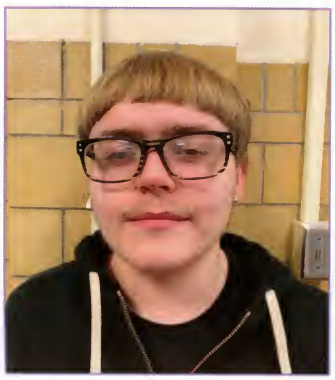
"JJ's Fish and Chicken & Coya's"
Daniel Mulongecha

"Wingstop"
Darquez Lovelady

FAVORITES IN THE QC

"Alleycat Boxing Gym"
Jayden Rea

"QC Pancake House"
Kameron Hurt

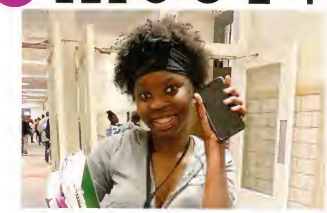


"Rock Island High School"
Ashley McGinnis

"La Rancherita"
Ja'Kye Hill

SCHOOL NECESSITIES MUST HAVE ITEMS

"My ID because I can't even get into the school without it."
- Avery Donaldson, 11

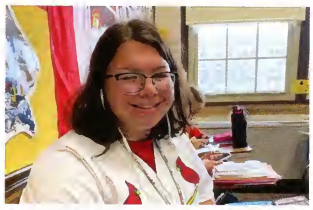


"My phone and headphones because without them, I'd be bored."
- Iradukunda Dorine

"My wallet because it has my money in case I need to buy something."
- Alyssa Groothaert, 11

"My phone because I use it mostly in IJAG for duo lingo for a class credit."
- Sonia Pamela, 12

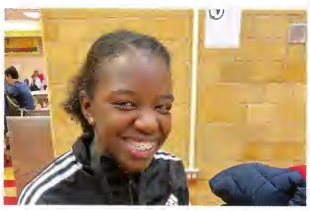
"My mint lip gloss. I have it attached to my lanyard and it makes me feel poppin'."
- Guinevere Carr, 10



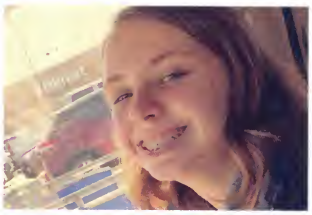
"My AirPods because I love listening to my music all the time."
- Mieaad Abdalla

"I never leave home without my snacks. They keep me energized throughout the day."
- Yvette Perez-Gomez, 12

"Ear buds because it's easier to focus on my work when I'm listening to music."
- Chloe Killian, 11



"My water bottle because it gets me through the day and I stay hydrated."
- Jonathan Knuth, 11



"My pencil pouch because it has everything I need- like my phone, lip gloss, and school supplies."
- Karine Kezimana

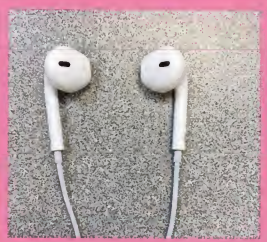
"My phone because I need it in case of an emergency."
- Brigitte Pendeza, 10

"Coffee because I need energy."
- Stevie Dempsey, 9

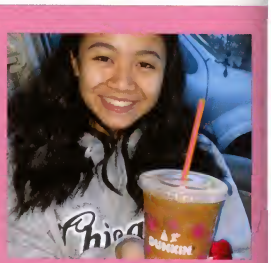
Voted: Most Popular Items

Water Bottle

Chapstick/Lip Gloss



Ear Buds



Coffee

UNIQUE HOBBIES

Mr. Verschorre-
The Peaceful Palate

Mr. Weber, Mr. Wynn, Mr. Bollaert-
Snowmobiling

Mrs. Evanchyk-
Running Races

Mr. Paine-
Making Guitars

Mrs. Anderson-
Art

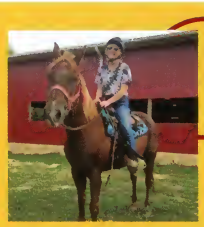
Ms. Churchill-
Playing Dek Hockey

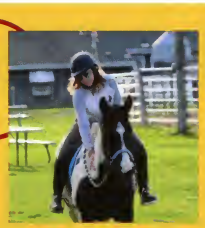
Mr. Kennel-
Playing Dek Hockey

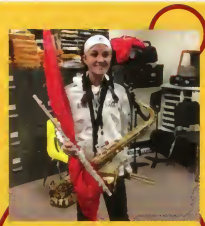
Mr. Corwin-
Playing Dek Hockey

The students and teachers at Rock Island High School have been taking on hobbies! From horseback riding and woodworking to painting murals and baking, our students and teachers have no lack of talent or perseverance in their unique hobbies. Although school can be busy, the Rocks always find time to have fun and do what they love.

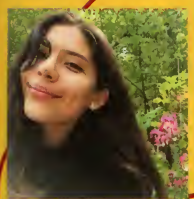
Phoebe Fuller-
Floriculture


Elyse O'Brien-
Horseback Riding


Katherine Shewell-
Horseback Riding

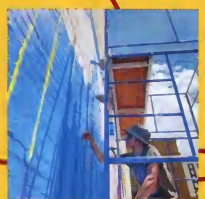
Allyson Smithson-
Crochet

Katie Kavanaugh-
Plays Flute,
Saxophone, &
Percussion, and did
Color Guard

Mj Stern-
Woodworking


Daphne Calderon-
Digital Editing

Zoe Veasey-
Baking

Courtney Wixom-
Photography


Liam Haskill-
Murals

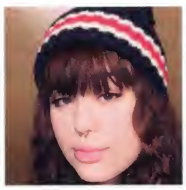
Nicholas Alt-
Pit Orchestra at
Music Guild

Shay Wright-
Cycling

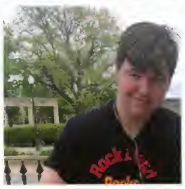
Bops at the Rock

When asked what their favorite song is, this is what students had to say.

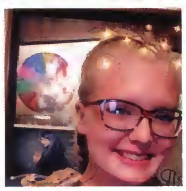
"My favorite song is 'Trying My Best' by Anson Seabra because even if you think you know someone, you really don't behind closed doors, and if you are going through a rough time, you can get through it."
Selena Caudillo, Grade 11



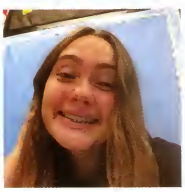
"My favorite song is 'Circles' by Post Malone because the beat is really smooth and it is a song that I can simply just relax to."
Daniel Johnson, Grade 11

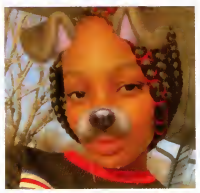


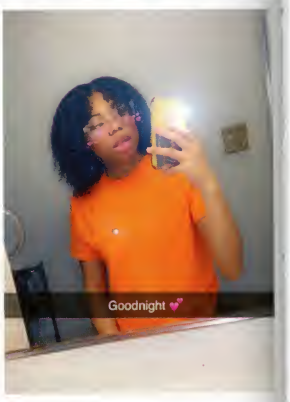
"My favorite song is 'You Say' by Lauren Daigle because it helped me through many tough times in my life."
Careese Murphy, Grade 12



"My favorite is Destiny's Child because 2000's music is my favorite type of music."
Natalie VanCoillie, Grade 10







Rocks in Filters

Feel the Energy

"Blue and Phoenix from Atomic."
- Abbi Rasmussen

"M Bomb from Awake."
- Daniel Johnson

"Tidal Wave, Sunny Dee and Pixie Dust from Awake."
- JaRaya Carr and Paw Gay

"Pink drink with Raspberry and White Chocolate from Atomic."
- Marte' McKinney

"Starburst with Raspberry and the Purple Drink from Atomic."
- Haylie and Abbie Roos

"Starburst with Peach, Mango, and Pineapple from Atomic."
- Benjamin Samuelson

"Laffy Taffy from Atomic."
- Katie Kavanaugh

"Skittlez with Watermelon from Awake."
- Juan Ibarra

"Capri Sun with added Peach, Passion Fruit, Pomegranate, and Mango."
- Emma Ingram

Spilling the Tea of 2019

1. Cap (to Cap)

To express one's feeling that they believe another person is lying.

2. Periodttt

To express that one's opinion is shared with a sense of urgency.

3. Merch

To put it on something, or to be able to provide factual evidence.

4. Extra

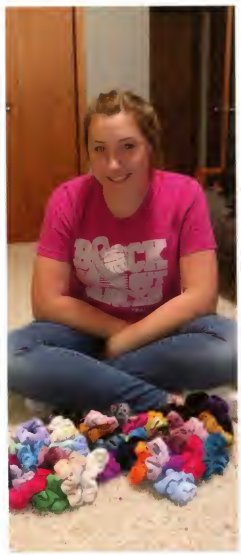
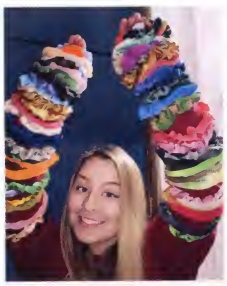
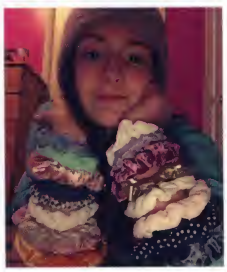
To be unnecessarily dramatic and over the top.

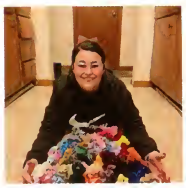
5. Low Key

Slightly, secretly, modestly, or discretely. It's the opposite of "high key," for when you're sincerely or assertively into something.

Blast from the Past

Scrunchies made their first appearance back in the 1980s, and grew in popularity through the '90s. In the 2000s, Scrunchies declined dramatically in popularity. In 2019, Scrunchies have made a comeback as both hair and wrist accessories.



Rocky's VSCO Lifestyle

A "VSCO Girl" is a teenage girl who goes above and beyond to stand out in a crowd. She typically carries around a Hydro-Flask water bottle, wears scrunchies around her wrists, and makes friendship bracelets with her fellow VSCO girls.

Off the Wall at Rocktown

Vans were first created back in early 2000's (2002). Vans were known to be worn by skateboarders. Since then, the shoes have become popular with a variety of people, including students at Rocky!

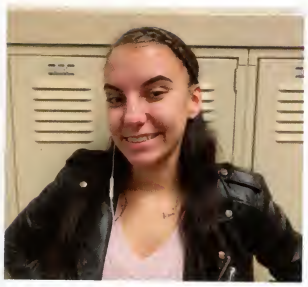
"They're comfortable."
- Sarah Stevanovic

"They allow me to be myself and show my personality."
- Gwendalyn Waggoner

"Swag... that is all."
- Kyle Waggoner

Croc-Town

HIGH SCHOOL BLOOPERS

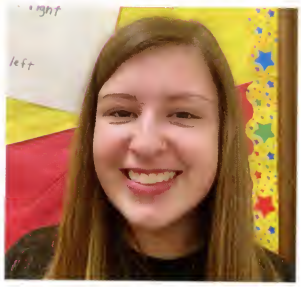


"Freshman year, during the food fight, I was on crutches. I slipped on apple sauce and fell on my butt."

Gracie Taber, 12

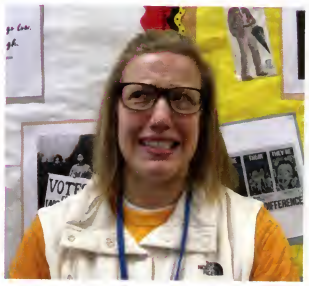
"During a diving meet, I hit my nose on the board doing a back flip... like a cool kid."

Valerie Holland, 11



"I dropped my hydro flask down 5-point stairs and got water everywhere."

Maggie Honeycutt, 12



"A bird pooped on my head during a fire drill."

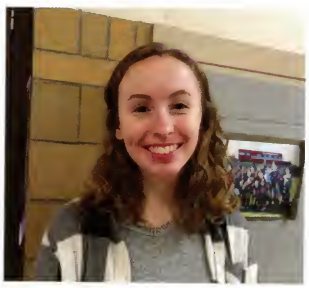
Ms. Miers

"I was disciplining a student, and he kept trying to tell me something, but I wouldn't listen until he finally told me I had something in my nose."

Ms. Johnson

"I slipped down the stairs in my boots one time, and a girl started dying laughing at me."

Isabel Drish, 11

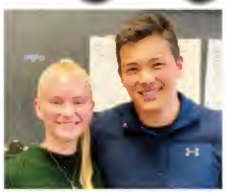


Every year on the first day, I've read my schedule wrong, and walked into the wrong class.

Ellie Maranda, 12

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

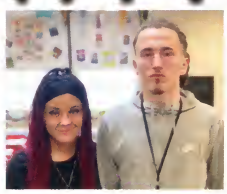
Best Smile
Jazel Carr & Ja'Kye Hill



Most Likely to Succeed
Larissa Pothoven & MJ Stern

Class Clown
Collin Killian & Shaila Christopher

Most Likely to Win an Academy Award
Gwen Waggoner & Sja'Lell Downing-Mims

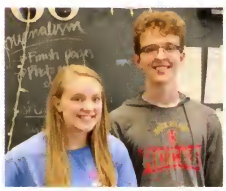


Best Hair
Shay Robinson & Michael Machuca

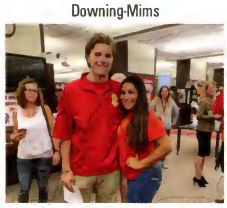
Most Athletic
Raghen Walker & Victor Guzman

Most Creative
Siobhan Dunn & Liam Haskill

Best Dressed
Anna Rowell & Ethan Kirkpatrick

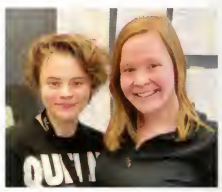


Most Likely to Teach at Rocky
Miranda Banks & Matt Crone



Most School Spirit
Amelia Peña & Vincent Esposito

Best Shoulder to Cry On
Maria Perez & Malachi Key



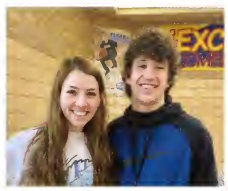
Most Likely to Star on a Reality Show
Easton Anderson & Morgan Nesbitt

Best Personality
Aminia Mashimango & Kailyn Sanders

Most Musical
Ellie Maranda & Nick Alt

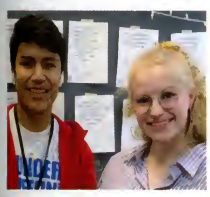
Most Involved
Emma Beierlein & Ryan Nickel

Most Likely to Become a Billionaire
Spencer Mar & Bianca Brown



Best Laugh
Hannah Simmer & Henry Thompson

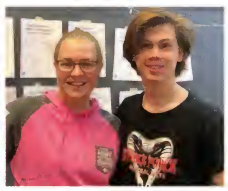
Most Competitive
Heather Motley & Taurean Holtam



Most Artistic
Genaro Carrillo & Elyse O'Brien

Most Likely to Travel the World
Nathan Steinbeck & Bailey Tripilas

Class Activist
JJ Willhite & Montana Hogan

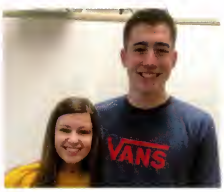


Most Likely to Survive the Hunger Games
Emily LeVan & Shannon Elliott

Best Dance Moves
Andrew McDuffy & Jada Gay

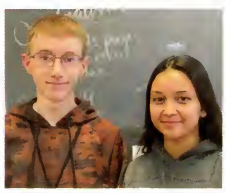
Most Likely to Become President
Logan Conner & Zoe Veasey

Most Likely to Break the Internet
Joseph Dilulio & Jayla Hathorn

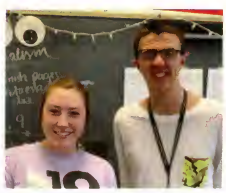


Most Unforgettable
Maggie Honeycutt & Solomon Gustafson

Most Likely to be a Spy
Yvette Perez- Gomez & Tristinn Davis



Worst Case of Senioritis
Kowen Wilhelm & Kristen Williams



Most Likely to Brighten Your Day
Lauryn Dempsey & Colin Benisch

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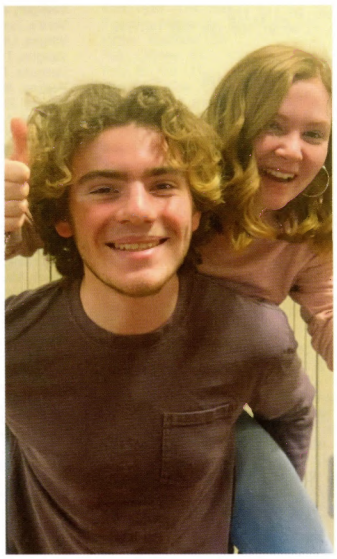

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Credit: Quad-City Times for the picture on page 102.

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